



## Ethiopia arrests 3 Egyptians in Mubarak assassination bid

**ADDIS ABABA (AFP)** — Ethiopia has announced the arrest of three Egyptians for taking part in a bid to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak here and pinned responsibility on the Egyptian group Jamaat Islamiya.

The fundamentalist group, which tried to kill Mr. Mubarak at least twice before, had claimed responsibility for the June 26 attack in a communiqué received by AFP's Cairo bureau on July 4 which said the group's holy war would continue until "God's law" — Islamic Sharia Law — was in force in Egypt.

Egypt put the blame on Sudan for masterminding the assassination bid, which Mr. Mubarak survived unscathed as bullets bounced off his armoured limousine as he drove from the airport into the Ethiopian capital for a summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

He has escaped at least eight attempts on his life since taking power in 1981 after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Ethiopia's Ministry of Internal Affairs said in a statement carried late Tuesday by the official Ethiopian News Agency that nine members of Jamaat Islamiya carried out the attack and that two other members of the group controlled the operation from outside Ethiopia.

All were Egyptian, it said.

Two of the assailants were killed in the shoot-out that accompanied the ambush, along with two Ethiopian policemen, and security forces killed three more in a shoot-out about a week later.

One escaped.

One man killed in the shoot-out on July 1 was identified by the ministry as the head of the operation, Sharif Abdul Rahman.

"It has been learnt that this individual had gained wide experience by participating in planning and executing acts of terrorism in a number of

countries," the statement said.

"It has been discovered that he was in charge of the Egyptian terrorists that took part in the action in Ethiopia. He played the leading and decisive role in planning the terrorist act and supervised the overall operation."

The statement named the three men arrested as Abdul Karim Al Nadi, Al Arab Sudki Hafez, and Safwat Hassan.

"Presentation of evidence supporting the charges and other legal preparations necessary to bring them to justice are well under way," the statement said.

The member of the terrorist squad who escaped from the country after participating in the operation has been identified as Fathi Orsiraj, real name Husain Ahmad Shahid Ali — who had been referred to in the media by another of his fictitious names, Siraj Mohammad Hussein.

"This person, together with Safwat Hassan, currently in custody, was deployed in providing logistical support like arranging for the renting of houses and cars and so on.

The two men who coordinated the attempt from abroad were Mustafa Hamza, also known by the fictitious name Ibrahim, a member of the leadership of Jamaat Islamiya,

"who from the initial stage planned, supervised and monitored the Addis Ababa assassination attempt," and Izzat Yassin, one of his deputies, the ministry said.

The Ethiopian government is undertaking the necessary efforts to ensure Mustapha Hamza, Izzat Yassin and the escaped terrorist Siraj are returned to Ethiopia from the country in which they are hiding in order to face justice."

In March, 1995 an informer for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, a key Egyptian witness in the case against blind Sheikh

Omar Abdul Rahman over the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York, testified that the Jamaa spiritual guide ordered him to shoot Mr. Mubarak in late 1991.

In 1993, two Jamaa members stole an anti-tank rocket-launcher from Egyptian army stores and planned to fire it at the presidential residence in Cairo, but were arrested before they could carry out the attack, and hanged.

In February 1994 three soldiers belonging to the Jamaa planted explosives at the military airport at Sidi Barrani on Egypt's Mediterranean coast near the border with Libya.

They planned to set them off as Mr. Mubarak met Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi, but were arrested and executed later that year.

Meanwhile, Sudan's foreign minister Tuesday acknowledged a military buildup was underway but said that it was purely defensive.

Ali Osman Mohammad Taha told heads of the main opposition, the National Congress, there was a "militarisation" of Sudan but said it was not aimed at "imposing" Sudan's views on anyone else.

"Training and Jihad (holy war) are the shield and armour to protect what is right in Sudan. They are not swords meant to terrorise others or impose our views on them," he said.

Mr. Taha said Sudan was only preparing these people to defend itself and its principles from any possible aggression as had happened in Bosnia, Somalia and Chechnya.

On the dispute with Egypt over the border territory of Halabib, Mr. Taha said Sudan would not pull its troops out but would not escalate the dispute into a full war, because "the Zionists and the imperialists will benefit from this situation."

In March, 1995 an informer for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, a key Egyptian witness in the case against blind Sheikh

Yasser Arafat, the newspaper

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of

negotiations.

Al Thawra, the newspaper

of Aug. 2, 199



The English-language Arab Times reported that the self-styled state is expected to sponsor a resolution at the council in October calling for an international inquiry to try alleged war crimes on the lines of the Nuremberg trials. More than 300 thousand expatriates were reportedly left behind in the seven-month period that followed Iraq's 1990 invasion. A U.S.-led coalition based in Saudi Arabia drove out Iraqi troops in February 1991 after a week-long war.

The research and intelligence officials have drawn up half a million documents and reports from international human rights groups, the Arab Times said.

The detailed document describes Saddam and his Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the second phase of the Oslo agreement and military Minister of Tourism in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Elias Freij at the meeting. After the meeting, Mr. Freij told Jordan Television that the two sides had agreed to reach a final agreement, but he said he hoped that the Palestinians would eventually attain their rights (Petra photo).

**Exhibitors at Palestinian products show estimate total number of visitors at 500,000**

By Cathy King

Kuwait was seeking to attract experts in international trade to the exhibition's opening day, Wednesday, of an exhibition of Palestinian products, goods were on sale, and many exhibitors said they were enthusiastic over the large turnout of visitors.

A partner in another Hebron-based company, Sadeq Neiroukh, told the Jordan Times that his firm had also established contacts with companies in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The company, which deals in electronic and mechanical balances and scales in addition to metal office furniture, has made an agreement with a Jordanian agent for it to become the company's agent, Mr. Neiroukh said.

"Many people looked at our equipment, and many enquired about being our agent. It's not easy to choose because there's so much to be agreed upon."

He explained that although visitors appeared interested in the office, many were put off by their high cost.

"They are expensive enough already, and then added to the price there is another 57 per cent VAT placed on (imported) metal furniture."

According to Mr. Neiroukh, the Ministry of Industry and Trade Tuesday

agreed to reduce VAT on metal furniture from 60 per cent.

He felt though that the exhibition was a success. The turnover of visitors he said had been consistent throughout the daytime, becoming particularly busy in the evenings.

Goods on display included clothing, shoes, ceramics, foodstuffs, music cassettes and posters and various equipment including industrial meat mincers.

Nazeer Zaghal, who represents his uncle's West Bank shoe factory in Amman, claimed that five companies from Saudi Arabia had expressed interest in marketing their shoes there.

"For 27 years Palestinian production has not been within the modern market. People have been enthusiastic about buying Palestinian products. They want to do anything to help the 'baby' Palestinian community," Mr. Zaghal said.

Recent reports noted that since the signing of a preferential treatment accord between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority on May 4, Palestinian exports to the Kingdom have increased 10 fold.

Official figures showed that the volume of trade between Jordan and the

Kingdom has risen 30% in the last five years, with exports reaching \$1.5 billion in 1990.

Kuwaitis say that their resistance is natural. Flavoursome resistance, but the natural.

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

They show that they could "look and security services."

Arabia, Syria, offering a selection of Israel, the United States, yoghurt, milk and Britain were also present, one sampler had

Kuwaitis said that they had been 70,000 visitors per

day approved government's plans to abolish Security Council members.

Baghdad's troops driven out of the city estimated that there

The vote, which began on the fifth anniversary of the invasion, was passed by my estimation, since

mainly by all 41 opening there have been

present in the 90s; a million visitors," said

an AFP correspondent, who added that a number had been for

ers.

R. Junaidi's Hebron-based company, specialises in dairy products. The products are not for sale, but

</div

## Taiwan's Lee welcomes 100-year peace pact with China

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui said Wednesday he would welcome a 100-year peace treaty with China, saying that would help the reunification of the two rivals.

"To create opportunities for China's peace and reunification... if the 100-year peace treaty (with China) can be done, it is even more welcome. This is the best solution," Mr. Lee told the National Assembly, broadcast on Independent Television Broadcasting Satellite.

"The question, how to work on it," Mr. Lee said in apparent reference to a treaty. "We should strengthen mutual trust and rationality to achieve it."

Taiwan and China have been rivals since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Both governments say they want eventual reunification, but on different terms.

Gradually improved relations have plunged since Mr. Lee's private visit to the United States in June. China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since 1949 and objects to contact be-

tween Taiwan and other countries.

China postponed high-level talks with Taiwan after Mr. Lee's U.S. visit and conducted missile tests north of the island last month, triggering massive fears and plunging stock and foreign exchange markets.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said Wednesday it had not received any information about a planned military exercise around Oct. 10 announced by President Lee.

The exercise is planned for National Day, Oct. 10, but was not being staged in retaliation to China's recent missile tests north of the island, state-funded Chinese Television System quoted Defense Minister Chiang Chung-Ling as saying.

Mr. Chiang, who declined to comment on the exercise, said on state-funded radio: "Ask The Spokesman's Office."

"We have not yet received any information about the exercise. We will issue a formal notice if there is one," an

official at the spokesman's office said by telephone.

Mr. Lee told the National Assembly Tuesday that a military exercise "with certain scales" would be held around Oct. 10 to display the island's defensive ability and firepower.

He said China's recent missile tests aroused concern and there was a need to show the people that Taiwan's military power was on the right track.

"We may hold an exercise with certain scales before or after the double ten (Oct. 10) festival. Please come and inspect, then you will understand our military's firepower and combat ability," Mr. Lee told the National Assembly.

The China Times Express newspaper reported Wednesday that the exercise, named Hua Hsin, would be held before Oct. 10 at a navy base in Tsuoyin in southern Kaohsiung and Mr. Lee would observe it.

The army, the navy and the air force would all join the exercise, the newspaper said. Taiwan-China relations

plunged after Mr. Lee's private visit to the United States in June. China has postponed scheduled high-level talks with the island.

The atmosphere further worsened over China's missile tests, which triggered massive fears in Taiwan and caused the stock and foreign exchange markets to tumble last month.

Beijing has recently restated its threat to recover the island by force and Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian said on Monday the People's Liberation Army would not give up the threat of force against Taiwan if the island tried to declare independence.

Both Taiwan and China claim they want reunification, but on different terms.

Mr. Lee, who has said repeatedly he objects to independence, told the assembly he was pleased with Taiwan's recent military exercises.

"I feel very confident about our defensive power... I think you should put your heart at ease," he said Tuesday.

The army, the navy and the air force would all join the exercise, the newspaper said.

Taiwan-China relations

## China expels 2 U.S. air force officers

BEIJING (AFP) — China ordered the expulsion Wednesday of two U.S. Air Force officers for spying on military facilities, dealing a major blow to efforts to resolve the current crisis in Sino-U.S. relations.

The Foreign Ministry said the 24-hour expulsion order had been issued Wednesday morning on Joseph Wei Chan, air force liaison officer with the U.S. consulate-general in Hong Kong, and his deputy, Dwayne Howard Florenz.

It was not immediately clear where the two officers were being held or whether the expulsion order had been carried out.

The men were caught "on the spot" by Chinese soldiers on July 29 in a restricted military zone in southeast China, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang, quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency. He added that they had "illegally acquired military intelligence by photographing and videotaping."

The U.S. State Department in Washington said it was aware of the expulsions of the attaches but had no immediate comment to make.

But the incident will fuel the crisis in Sino-U.S. relations, which have been in a downward spiral ever since the controversial "private" visit of Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui to the United

States in June, analysts said. Beijing, which views Nationalist Taiwan as a renegade province, strongly denounced the visit, recalled its ambassador from Washington and cancelled planned Sino-U.S. defence talks in retaliation.

The authorities have carried out an investigation into the case and "the facts are clear and irrefutable," Mr. Shen said, stipulating that the two officers had violated Chinese laws on the protection of military facilities, state security and the control of aliens entering and exiting the country.

Their activities have also "seriously undermined China's national security," he added.

The expulsion order was relayed to the U.S. charge d'affaires Scott Haiford in Beijing at 10 a.m. (0200 GMT) Wednesday, Xinhua reported.

Observers suggested that the expulsion of the two air force officers would provide Beijing with another weapon to attack Washington when Mr. Qian and Mr. Christopher meet again in September.

According to the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Chan and Mr. Florenz entered China on July 23, having applied for visas on the grounds of holding consultations with the U.S. embassy in Beijing and other consulate-general personnel in the country.

Having entered the country, "they sneaked into a number of restricted military zones in China's southeast coastal areas," Mr. Shen said, adding that the expulsion order had been issued by the state security authorities.

The authorities have carried out an investigation into the case and "the facts are clear and irrefutable," Mr. Shen said, stipulating that the two officers had violated Chinese laws on the protection of military facilities, state security and the control of aliens entering and exiting the country.

Their activities have also "seriously undermined China's national security," he added.

The expulsion order was relayed to the U.S. charge d'affaires Scott Haiford in Beijing at 10 a.m. (0200 GMT) Wednesday, Xinhua reported.

The government lodged a strong protest with Mr. Haiford, who is currently in charge of the embassy as it awaits a new ambassador, and demanded assurances that similar incidents would not occur in the future.

While no concrete resolutions of the various disputes between Beijing and Washington emerged from the Qian-Christopher meeting in Brunei, both sides agreed to resume lower-level talks as well as scheduling the September talks between the two ministers.

Jane Austen might have been lesbian — scholar

LONDON (R) — An American professor stoked a literary row by claiming that 18th-century English society novelist Jane Austen may have had a lesbian relationship with her sister. In an article headlined "Was Jane Austen gay?" Terry Castle, professor of English at California's Stanford University, noted that Jane shared a bed for years with her sister Cassandra. After a review of Austen's letters, Prof. Castle noted that Jane turned down two offers of marriage and she commented on the "passionate nature of the sibling bond" between the two women.

Austen, author of *Pride And Prejudice*, Emma and a string of other witty observations of English middle-class life, died unmarried in 1817 at the age of 43. The conventions of 19th-century female sociability may have provided the necessary screen behind which both women acted out unconscious narcissistic or homoerotic imperatives," wrote Prof. Castle in the London Review of Books.

Austen scholars hit back angrily, saying Prof. Castle was poorly informed about English social history. "It shows such ignorance of the domestic conditions of the time because people did sleep in each others' beds. It is a natural thing, partly because they didn't have central heating," said Elizabeth Jenkins, one of Austen's biographers. Another Austen expert, Claire Tomalin said "I think it's about as likely that Jane Austen was gay as that she was found out to be a man."

## Britain's Globe names artistic director

LONDON (AP) — British actor Mark Rylance was named Tuesday the first artistic director of the rebuilt Globe theatre, the famous "Wooden O" that was home to Shakespeare's kings' men nearly four centuries ago. The inaugural Globe season will be launched next May with a summer repertory of four plays, two of them by the Bard," said Kylian, meeting the press nearly a week after a London newspaper leaked his appointment.

"I'm scared to death," said a woman who identified herself as Doris Hurst, reporting eerie blue flashes as transforms exploded at the electric poles outside her home.

Hurricane warnings remained in effect for the east coast of the state as Erin swept west-northwest across the state on a path that would take it near Disney World in Orlando before emerging in the Gulf of Mexico. Erin could regroup over the warm waters and threaten other coastal areas, forecasters said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration rolled the shuttle Endeavour from its seaside launch pad back to the safety of its mammoth assembly building at Cape Canaveral Tuesday, and workers at the Magic Kingdom left their jobs early. Erin surprised residents of central Florida. It was expected to slam into Miami and Fort Lauderdale, but veered to the north during its last 24 hours over the Atlantic Ocean.

## Man ordered to repay \$39m stolen in robbery

LONDON (AP) — Eleven years after a man was acquitted of taking part in Britain's biggest gold robbery, a judge has ruled that he was involved and must repay the £26 million (\$39 million) stolen. The Times reported Wednesday Anthony White, accused in 1984 of taking part in the 1983 billion robbery at the Brink's-Mat warehouse near London's Heathrow Airport, was also ordered Tuesday to pay over £2 million (\$3 million) in compensation, the paper said. Insurers for the Brink's-Mat company had sued the couple for the value of the proceeds of the robbery. Justice Kummer said in court that Mr. White and his wife came into substantial wealth after his acquittal in 1984, and that "Mr. White could not have acquired it lawfully, (and) that its magnitude shows it was the fruit of a major crime," The Times reported.

The judge said that the Whites' family home in London, a property in Spain, jeweller and other assets were bought with the proceeds of the robbery, and that the insurees were entitled to them, the paper said. The case against Mr. White is the latest in a series of actions brought by insurers for Brink's-Mat against people either convicted or suspected of taking part in the robbery and of handling the proceeds.

## S.Koreans to join team inspecting North Korea nuclear reactor site

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Despite past efforts by North Korea to limit the role of its Southern rivals, South Koreans will be included in a team inspecting a proposed North Korean nuclear reactor site, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Two new reactors, funded by an international consortium led by South Korea, Japan and the United States, will replace a reactor that U.S. officials have said could produce fuel used in nuclear weapons.

In negotiations with the United States, North Korea has repeatedly sought to exclude South Koreans.

But Robert Gallucci, assistant U.S. secretary of state, insisted that North Korea will have to accept its rivals when the inspection team arrives in late August or early September to prepare the site for construction of the South Korean-designed reactors.

"We have insisted that South Korea will play a central role in this light water reactor project," Mr. Gallucci said.

A spokesman for the North Korean delegation to the United Nations refused to com-

ment Tuesday.

Mr. Gallucci spoke at a news conference at the U.S. mission to the United Nations following the first general meeting of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization.

The consortium was created in March to implement a U.S.-North Korea accord to replace North Korea's plutonium-producing reactor at Yongbyon with light water reactors that cannot easily convert fuel to weapons-grade material.

North Korea, which has had tense relations with South Korea since the end of the Korean War in the 1950s, had objected to South Korean models. But final terms were worked out between U.S. and North Korean negotiators in Malaysia in early June.

U.S. officials have suspected Pyongyang of developing a nuclear weapons programme.

Consortium officials have received commitments from several nations to help finance the \$4.5 billion project. Mr. Gallucci said most of the cost will be paid by South Korea and Japan.

## U.S. to admit fewer refugees

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration plans to admit 20,000 fewer refugees in fiscal 1996, largely because the number of Vietnamese eligible for refugee status is declining.

For years, the United States has operated special programmes for the Vietnamese children of American soldiers who served in Vietnam, and for former officials of the U.S.-backed Saigon regime sent to reeducation camps after the Communist triumph.

Resettlement of those

eligible is almost completed.

Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff told the Senate's judiciary committee Tuesday, and these programmes are being phased out.

Mr. Tarnoff said President Bill Clinton is proposing a refugee ceiling of 90,000 for the next fiscal year, compared with the current figure of 110,000.

Meanwhile, at a downtown news conference, the private Centre for Immigration Studies estimated that overall immigration in the United States declined by 59,000 to

more than 1.2 million in the last fiscal year. It was the first decline since 1991.

Centre spokesman John Martin predicted that this year's overall immigration figure would be much like 1994's.

He said the downward immigration trend results from numerous small causes but agreed that phasing out of the refugee programme for children of American soldiers in Vietnam was an important one.

"We may be on a plateau, but it's too early to tell," he said.

The prime contractor for the two planned reactors will be Kempco, the South Korean Electric Utility.

The Netherlands Tuesday offered \$500,000 to help replace North Korea's nuclear reactors, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

U.S. officials are reporting daily to the centre, nearly twice the average number of past years, the ICDDR said in statement.

"We are witnessing an epidemic and emergency," said Demisse Habte, the centre director, describing the situation as "extremely grave."

Thousands of people across Bangladesh have been hit by the illness after half of the country was submerged by monsoon floods in July — the worst in six years.

Health officials said diarrhoea, which kills by dehydration unless treated quickly, was normal at this time of the year.

But receding floods had left contaminated water and a serious health situation, they said. And the Meteorological Department has warned of fresh flooding this month forcing the government to prepare contingency plans for a new crisis.

The ICDDR assistant director, Graham Wright told AFP the centre's warning was based on cases reported to the hospital, which was overflowing with patients.

Local emergency managers kept police and emergency

## Diarrhoea epidemic kills hundreds in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AFP) — Up to 1,500 people have been killed in a diarrhoea epidemic that has swept Bangladesh where experts said Wednesday the situation was "extremely grave."

Press reports said as many as 1,500 people, mainly children and elderly, had died from the disease in flood hit regions since May. Health officials said 1,000 people had died since January.

But the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research (ICDDR) in Bangladesh also issued an emergency alert for the capital with its teeming population of eight millions.

Up to 450 patients were reporting daily to the centre, nearly twice the average number of past years, the ICDDR said in statement.

The prime contractor for the two planned reactors will be Kempco, the South Korean Electric Utility.

The Netherlands Tuesday offered \$500,000 to help replace North Korea's nuclear reactors, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

U.S. officials are reporting daily to the centre, nearly twice the average number of past years, the ICDDR said in statement.

"We are witnessing an epidemic and emergency," said Demisse Habte, the centre director, describing the situation as "extremely grave."

Thousands of people across Bangladesh have been hit by the illness after half of the country was submerged by monsoon floods in July — the worst in six years.

Health officials said diarrhoea, which kills by dehydration unless treated quickly, was normal at this time of the year.

But receding floods had left contaminated water and a serious health situation, they said. And the Meteorological Department has warned of fresh flooding this month forcing the government to prepare contingency plans for a new crisis.

The ICDDR assistant director, Graham Wright told AFP the centre's warning was based on cases reported to the hospital, which was overflowing with patients.

Local emergency managers kept police and emergency

workers on standby and warned residents to stay inside as the storm remained over the Florida peninsula, but local media reports indicated some residents were leaving hurricane shelters in the early morning hours to return home.

Emergency officials had ordered 100,000 residents of luxury flats and beach homes on barrier islands off central Florida to evacuate, but it was unclear how many heeded the warning, which was issued late Tuesday afternoon.

"Look like we made it through the night," said Palm Beach County Assistant Administrator Patrick Miller.

The hurricane's immediate threat was rain — between three and six inches (7.5-15 cm) was expected — and surging ocean storm tides of 5-10 feet (1.5 to 3 metres).

Trees bent and branches were loose in the high winds, which sent garbage can lids and other loose debris shooting along roadways.

Residents who called local television stations said the storm was blowing out power transformers in some neigh-

bours and, and, heavy rain was pooling on low-lying streets and in parking lots.

"I'm scared to death," said a woman who identified herself as Doris Hurst, reporting eerie blue flashes as transforms exploded at the electric poles outside her home.

Hur

# World News

Jane Austen  
might have been  
lesbian — So

LONDON (R) —  
ary row by claims  
century English  
novelist Jane Austen  
have had a les-  
ship with her  
Austen gay?"  
professor of Eng-  
land's Stanford  
noted that he  
bed for years with  
Cassandra. After  
Austen's letters, he  
noted that Jane once  
she commented on  
sionate nature of  
bond," between  
men. Austen,  
Pride And Prejudice  
and a string of  
observations of  
middle-class life  
in 1817 at the  
convention  
century female  
may have provided  
sary screen for  
both women acted  
conscious narcissistic  
homoeotic impulse  
wrote Prof. Col-  
London Review of  
Austen scholar  
angrily, saying he  
was poorly informed  
English social life  
shows such ignore-  
domestic conduct  
time because people  
natural things, per-  
they didn't have  
said Elizabeth  
one of Austen's  
Another Aunt  
Claire Tomalin  
it's about as like  
Austen was get-  
was found out at



Demonstrators carry portraits of the 41-year-old Kurdish woman Guelnaz Baghistani, who died last week after several days on a hunger-strike, as some 10,000 Kurds

## Angry Kurds bury hunger-striker in Germany

OSNABRUECK, Germany (R) — Hundreds of Kurds shouting support for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) gathered Wednesday to bury a hunger-striker who died after an eight-day fast in solidarity with Kurdish prisoners in Turkey.

Kurds from across Germany met in the northern city of Osnabrueck to join the funeral procession for 41-year-old Guelnaz Baghistani, a mother of five who died last week after fasting along with hundreds of other Kurds in Germany.

The marchers, many illegally wearing symbols of the PKK, chanted protests against Turkey's treatment of Kurds and against Interior Minister Manfred Kanther, who has blamed the PKK for a spate of arson attacks against Turkish property in Germany.

The PKK, fighting Ankara for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey, has been banned in Germany since 1993 for staging violent protests here.

Despite tight security, some protesters burned a Turkish flag in the city's pedestrian zone. Police did not intervene.

Baghistani.

Officials had warned of possible violence at the rally, but it went off peacefully.

Officials say they had evidence that the PKK, which numbers over 8,000 militants and around 50,000 supporters in Germany, is extending its campaign of violence to target Germany and German properties, especially the police.

Germany is home to around two million Turkish citizens, including up to 500,000 Kurds.

Turkey said Wednesday it had asked Germany to step up efforts against separatist Kurds involved in attacks on Turkish targets there.

After a week-long series of firebomb attacks against Turkish targets in Germany, senior Foreign Ministry official Gunduz Aktan summoned the German ambassador in Ankara Tuesday to ask that measures be increased to end the attacks.

He also urged Germany to immediately begin deporating those involved in the attacks to Turkey "in line with a March accord."

"Aktan pointed out that most of those responsible for previous attacks had not been caught, and that this may

Kurdistan Workers Party rebels are represented in the parliament.

## Russian security inadequate for arms storage

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian army chief of staff, General Mikhail Kolesnikov, told a government commission.

He said that with the surge in crime in Russia, the risk of chemical weapons attacks had increased.

However, the general in charge of radioactive, biological and chemical defence of the Russian army, Stranislav Petrov, told ITAR-TASS news agency that security measures were adequate.

The general also said the destruction of weapons stocks was progressing slowly because the government lacked the money to do it, the report said.

Storage of chemical weapons poses serious problems because the sites have been made public by the press, and the knowledge of their location makes them more vulnerable to theft.

In 1994, only a third of the budget needed to destroy chemical weapons stocks

were named. No specific actions were taken.

No specific actions were named. The Globe, a three-storey building situated on the Bank of the Russi-

long-term dream actor Sam Wanamaker died at the age of 80 in December 1994.

Globe centre, two theatres, a exhibition space, a film institute, etc. will be completed by the end of 1999, the 40th anniversary of the first recordance there. The project has cost \$20 million (£12 million).

Man ordered to repay \$39m stolen in rob

berlin

institute, was speaking for his conservative Freedom Alliance in a debate in the lower Chamber of Deputies on institutional reform.

He hopes a general election, four years early, can take place as soon as November.

Centre-left parties and other Berlusconi opponents in parliament want at least basic reforms to Italy's system of government in place before a general election.

All oppose Mr. Berlusconi's drive popular election of the prime minister, arguing that the tycoon-turned-politician could use his powers to ride roughshod over

democratic rules.

Armando Cossutta, of the Marxist party Communist Refoundation, told the debate, "Berlusconi's vision is an authoritarian vision. It is a vision of command, like running a company."

The leader of the biggest party in the centre-left grouping in Italy's parliament called Wednesday for basic democratic reforms to be put in place before the country holds an early general election.

That process will not be complete until Mr. D'Alema, who heads a government of technocrats, presents the draft budget for 1996 to parliament some time in September.

Massimo D'Alema, of the ex-Communist Party of the Left (PDS), urged all parties to consider how reforms, including to the

current electoral law, could be achieved. His remarks suggested that he saw no rush to decide when to go to the polls.

Mr. D'Alema told the Chamber of Deputies during a debate on institutional reform that the "real time" for a decision on a general election would occur when stopgap Prime Minister Lamberto Dini has completed his limited policy programme.

That process will not be

complete until Mr. Dini, who

heads a government of technocrats, presents the draft budget for 1996 to parliament some time in September.

BERLIN (R) — Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi called Wednesday for radical constitutional reform to give Italy stable government but said the changes should not be tackled until after an general election.

Addressing parliament, the conservative media magnate called among other changes for direct election of the prime minister, who is currently appointed by the president, and more room for a government to act independently of parliament.

Mr. Berlusconi, forced to resign last December after just seven months as prime minister following a coalition

couple for the proceeds of Justice Rimmer, his wife came into wealth after his death in 1994, and that he could not have lawfully, and had a major crime reported. The White's name London, a jeweller and were bought and sold, that the insurance company brought him a case against him, and that he was brought away from Berlin's

security and espionage apparatus in Communist Eastern Europe, employing 85,000 full-time officers and up to 300,000 informants before the 1989 popular uprising that toppled the Communist regime.

"How do you try to keep up the spirits of people who unjustly spent years in jail, who are still suffering psychological trauma, and are still waiting to see those who are responsible for what they did," said Peter Huscock, director of a support group for the victims of dictatorship.

Mr. Mielke's STASI was

arguably the most effective

Moabit Jail in an ambulance of the last jailed member of East Germany's Communist regime, hated security police boss Erich Mielke, has outraged victims who say justice has not been done for decades of dictatorship and terror.

A committee of Mielke supporters said Wednesday he was staying with his family at a secret location to avoid a storm of publicity. East Germans dubbed him "the master of fear" as head of the notorious Ministry for State Security (STASI).

The 87-year-old was spirited away from Berlin's

Security and Espionage Apparatus in Communist Eastern Europe, employing 85,000 full-time officers and up to 300,000 informants before the 1989 popular uprising that toppled the Communist regime.

It systematically opened mail, filmed, burgled and blackmailed in its obsessive hunt for "enemies of the state," creating a pervasive atmosphere of distrust and suspicion.

Even now, as STASI victim

sees millions of files,

some are still finding out that their closest friends betrayed them.

Following the visits, the couple were greeted by some

security and espionage apparatus in Communist Eastern Europe, employing 85,000 full-time officers and up to 300,000 informants before the 1989 popular uprising that toppled the Communist regime.

It systematically opened

mail, filmed, burgled and

blackmailed in its obsessive

hunt for "enemies of the

state," creating a pervasive

atmosphere of distrust and suspicion.

Even now, as STASI victim

sees millions of files,

some are still finding out that

their closest friends betrayed

them.

Following the visits, the couple were greeted by some

## Sri Lankan army on alert ahead of new peace moves

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan forces stepped up security in Colombo Wednesday fearing violence as the president prepares to release a new peace proposal to end the island's civil war.

"Terrorists may try to create some trouble to sabotage the peace package. We have not brought additional troops from other areas, but those who are already here have been placed on a high state of alert," a military official said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) also increased security in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, hunting for a traitor they believe tipped off the military to an attack in which hundreds of guerrillas may have died.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's proposals to grant greater autonomy to minority Tamils in exchange for peace are to be announced Thursday morning.

Justice Minister G. I. Peiris said the package is anchored on extensive devolution to ensure stability and to end the fighting which has claimed more than 50,000 lives since 1972.

Draft proposals showed the country is to be divided into eight administrative regions with extensive legislative powers.

The plan seeks to grant a key territorial concession to the Tamils by joining two existing provinces in the north and east where the Tamil minority is concentrated.

The military claims to have killed at least 300 Tigers, while the Tigers admit to

losing 180 fighters, including 128 women, during their massive pre-dawn attack on a massive complex in northeast Well Oya Friday.

In the capital the army also fielded more guards to protect the funeral procession of Lieutenant General Nalin Angamana, killed by the Tigers in revenge for the Well Oya debacle.

The slain eastern army commander was cremated here Wednesday after a military funeral conducted amid tight security, witnesses said.

The Colombo General Cemetery was guarded by heavily armed soldiers as Brig. Angamana's remains were cremated following traditional Buddhist rites led by saffron-robed Buddhist monks.

Hundreds of people including police and soldiers lined the funeral path and traffic was diverted on many key routes to make way for the military procession, complete with a 15-gun salute.

Brig. Angamana, who was eastern commander at the time of his death, was the senior most army officer to be killed since the slaying of the northern military chief, General Denzel Kobbedewa by the LTTE in August 1992.

Meanwhile, in the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna, Tigers chief Velupillai Prabhakaran ordered the search for the "traitor" who enabled the military to inflict the heaviest losses yet in a single day.

The military claims to have killed at least 300 Tigers, while the Tigers admit to

prolonged, state-run Daily News said Wednesday.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Margala Samaratunga told a seminar for local journalists Tuesday that if the war dragged on the government would draft "all able-bodied youth over 18 years," the Daily News said.

Mr. Samaratunga, a close associate of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, said that even Sri Lankan youth residing overseas would be called on for national military service.

Those who wanted the government to unveil its peace package to resolve the ethnic conflict only after defeating Tamil rebels had sent their children abroad to ensure they were not sent to the battle-front, Mr. Samaratunga said.

Those who advocate war have their children safely abroad. They should be prepared to send their sons and daughters to the front if they want the war to go on," Mr. Samaratunga said.

Mr. Samaratunga, who heads a peace movement initiated by Mrs. Kumaratunga, said that 99 percent of the soldiers fighting the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were "sons from poor families."

"Their huts are so small that their coffins cannot be placed inside. They have no money for a decent funeral for their sons who fought for the country," referring to almost daily funerals in villages of soldiers killed in battle.

## Peace talks survive firing of Chechen delegate

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechen and Russian negotiators pursued talks on a prisoner exchange here Wednesday, saying the abrupt resignation of the head of the Chechen delegation would not undermine peace efforts.

But both Chechen and Russian sides insisted the peace process, which brought about a broad ceasefire and disarmament agreement Sunday, would go on despite the departure of Usman Imayev.

Mr. Imayev said late Tuesday that he had been fired by Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, reportedly for making too many concessions to the Russians in Sunday's military accord.

Mr. Dudayev has been quoted as rejecting the agreement, but Movllem Salamov, an aide to Mr. Dudayev, said Wednesday that this was not true and that Mr. Imayev had simply resigned.

He said there had been complaints in the Chechen camp about Mr. Imayev.

The stocks include 32,000 tonnes of sarin gas, Zoman gas and V-gas, according to an estimate made one year ago by a non-governmental committee studying chemical, biological and conventional weapons and prohibits their manufacture, storage and use.

In addition, the Russian parliament has not yet ratified the Paris convention, signed by Moscow in January 1993 with 129 other countries, which calls for the destruction of chemical weapons and prohibits their manufacture, storage and use.

The convention calls for all Russian chemical weapons to be destroyed within 10 years. Gen. Kolesnikov said.

In March, President Boris Yeltsin began a programme to begin weapons destruction in line with the convention, with one destruction centre in Saratov southeast of Moscow, and another to the Russian Republic of Udmurtia, the general said.

The stocks include 32,000 tonnes of sarin gas, Zoman gas and V-gas, according to an estimate made one year ago by a non-governmental committee studying chemical, biological and conventional weapons and prohibits their manufacture, storage and use.

It's better for Mr. Murayama to resign and concentrate on reorganising our party," Mr. Goto was quoted as saying by Jiji Press news agency.

Mr. Murayama has pledged to remain in office.

## Call to quit widens rift in Japanese coalition

TOKYO (AFP) — A senior member of Prime Minister Tomiochi Murayama's party called for his resignation Wednesday, widening a rift opened by the Socialists' crushing setback in upper house elections last month.

Masanori Goto, vice secretary-general of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), called on Mr. Murayama to

step down as government leader in order to save the party.

"It's better for Mr. Murayama to resign and concentrate on reorganising our party," Mr. Goto was quoted as saying by Jiji Press news agency.

On Wednesday, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun published a poll showing that 50.4 percent of Japanese voters do

not support Mr. Murayama's cabinet, the lowest level of public confidence in the government since he formed his government to June 1994.

"We need to summarise the election results and want to clarify one responsibility," Mr. Kubo told a labour union conference in Saitama prefecture, north of Tokyo.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1971

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Dial a winner

THERE IS a growing consensus that telephone services in this country can never be fully and adequately provided as long as they remain strictly in the hands of the state bureaucracy. There is hardly a nation that has been able to offer efficient telecommunication facilities without the involvement of the private sector in the enterprise. Jordan is not so far behind in reaching the same conclusion as Parliament is in the process of adopting new legislation that aims to transform the government-run Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) into a private but publicly owned company at first. In line with this shift in attitude, the Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Mr. Jamal Saraiheh, has confirmed the failure of attempts to keep the telephone service in the hands of the government alone. He declared, in a newspaper interview three days ago, that the public sector can never afford the cost of introducing the modernisation and expansion needed for a successful enterprise, and that only through the participation of the private sector could we hope to catch up with the advanced nations in the telecommunications field.

The shortcomings of the present policy of full control by the state are obvious to the public at large. In spite of the fact that the TCC is a money-making state agency, most of its revenues are earmarked for other expenditures by the Treasury. We are in the midst of some tough preparatory work for the October Economic Conference on the Middle East and North Africa. We also seem determined to introduce market economy into the country as a prelude to coping with a new era in our history. Yet we have 120,000 pending applications for telephone lines that cannot be met. Ninety-five per cent of the existing facilities across the country have already been exhausted. The best evidence of this unsatisfactory state of affairs is the fact that only less than eight per cent of the population enjoy telephone services. In comparison, the percentages in Sweden and the U.S. are 70 and 53 respectively. Even local calls often cannot be made due to over-charged transmitters.

We certainly share the view that telephones are a basic necessity for modern living and cannot be regarded as a luxury. The ability to call a physician or a policeman when it is a matter of life or death is a basic human right that should be made available to all people who need and require it. Since the state on its own cannot offer this service then it is time to expedite the creation of the projected telecommunication company as a prelude possibly to total privatisation. The success or failure of the anticipated new company would only depend on whether it can keep its revenues for investment and continued development, managing it efficiently, and on commercial basis, is also a precondition. Otherwise the company, no matter what name we adopt for it, should expect the same fate as that faced by the TCC at the present.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WRITING IN Al Ra'i, a columnist Wednesday discussed the situation in Iraq, saying that its people have suffered a great deal for so long, and the time has come for ending the embargo five years after its imposition. Having responded favourably to all the conditions and requirements of the U.N. Security Council and shown full cooperation with the teams sent to destroy the nation's weapons, Iraq has become eligible for life again, said Sultan Al Hattab. It is shameful for the world community to perpetuate the sanction which are starving the innocent people of Iraq and it is incumbent on the Arab World to take quick steps to end the people's ordeal, said the writer. Commenting on His Majesty King Hussein's statement expressing readiness to undertake any mission designed to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people, the writer said Jordanians, who have displayed solidarity with the Iraqi people, have been and will continue to respond to the King's initiative and back his humanitarian endeavour. He said that as the world approaches the 21st century, it is expected from the international community to lift the embargo and end the injustice and save the Iraqi children, the sick and the women who are helpless and who have suffered a great deal.

A COLUMNIST IN Al Dustour reflected on the situation in the self-rule areas of Palestine, noting that the Palestine National Authority has had to overcome numerous difficulties in building the political and economic entity which serves as an infrastructure for the Palestine state. Mohammad Kawash said that because of the initial difficulties, it was natural and reasonable for President Arafat to hold all the power and supervise every step in the creation of this entity in the initial stages. But having done that and the self-rule areas having passed the crucial stage, the time has come for Mr. Arafat to assign the different responsibilities to eligible and qualified people who should direct their attention towards giving impetus to social and economic development with the meagre resources they possess, demanded the writer. He said in order to facilitate the construction of the state, Mr. Arafat must seek the help of the teams, qualified to take over the process of construction and to pursue the negotiations with the Israelis at the political level.

## The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubel

# NASA's space-station project: An opportunity for international cooperation and peace

THE CONTROVERSY in the U.S. over NASA's space programmes, especially over the plan to establish a station in space, has recently intensified with opponents and proponents each trying to affirm their position. Even though the debate may seem to some a purely American issue, it is in fact an international matter of concern to present and future generations.

Put simply, the situation is as follows. Eager to make more effective its efforts to explore the universe and reap the benefits humanity expects from the space programmes, NASA is forging ahead with plans to erect a station in space. The idea is not new. It was announced a few years back; during the Reagan era, in particular, there was much talk about it. Presently, NASA is determined to carry out its plans at any expense, ignoring all the reservations and opposition tactics which the critics and opponents are expressing.

According to NASA, the benefits to be gained from its overall programmes are numerous. As one official has put it, "the future of all humanity is at stake." What this precisely means is not entirely clear from the debate, but one gathers the following. First, the journeys into space tell us a great deal about our planet Earth itself. Secondly, with world population increasing at an alarming rate and with environmental hazards and ecological disasters on the increase, no one knows when life on Earth becomes extremely uncomfortable (even impossible). Crazy as the idea may sound, no one knows when life on another planet may become a must for the population of this globe. Thirdly, a great deal of scientific knowledge has been gained and will be gained from the various space programmes. Fourthly, humanity has known a lot, and will continue to, about the universe of which we are a small part. As one person has recently said in a television show, "Imagine us asking Columbus why he would want to journey through an unknown ocean." And so forth. As for the station itself, which will be equipped with everything the astronauts and scientists need, it is to be an important link between Earth

and the other planets or parts of the universe. "Even the shuttle programmes won't mean anything in the absence of the station," says a NASA official.

The sceptics, critics and opponents have the following to say. First of all, some are not entirely sure about what will ultimately be gained from the station and the overall NASA programmes. "Most of it is more fiction than fact." Secondly, and more importantly, NASA's programmes, especially the station, are too costly.

The cost-benefit analysis dominates the current controversy. NASA is not exactly sure, the critics insist, how much the station (for example) actually costs. NASA responds by saying that it is sure. The station will cost \$28 billion to build and \$13 billion to operate for 10 years. The critics then go on to affirm that the figure they have actually heard and anticipate is in the neighbourhood of \$90 billion. There is then, they insist, an ambiguity about the total expenses. They add: What guarantees do we have (assuming that NASA's figures are clear and accurate) that NASA won't stop in the middle of construction and ask for more money? Furthermore (the opponents go on to say), why, during the present economic recession, should money be dealt to NASA freely when substantial cuts are being made in more tangible and rewarding spheres, such as medical care and education?

There is no doubt that many of the reservations just stated make a great deal of sense. Currently, most countries in the world are experiencing a real economic recession. What this means, among other things, is that nations have to be careful about the ways and means their institutions, establishments and agencies spend money. A great deal of wisdom is to be exercised. Countries have to pinpoint their priorities and allocate funds according to such priorities. And yes, medical care and education are all-important in any society. As for the U.S., what is happening right now to medical care and education is regrettable. The budget cuts that are being implemented in

these two particular spheres are extremely crippling and harmful. In the realm of education, for instance, many programmes, scholarships and research grants are being cancelled. Several people are also losing their jobs, and the employment opportunities for many graduates, especially in the humanities and the social sciences, are no longer look promising. I, like many people, wish more money could be allocated to Medicare and education. One would in fact agree totally with slashing some funds from NASA's share and bestowing them on Medicare and education.

The point to emphasise is that the space station could be a peace venture for which many nations seem willing to cooperate. How many times have the U.S., Canada, Russia, Japan, and Europe worked together on a project of potential benefit to humanity — we say "potential" because we hope the NASA officials and the other countries involved mean what they say about the anticipated benefits for the world? But even though we may not be entirely sure about the motives and intentions of the countries involved and about the ultimate success or failure of the space project, one thing we are hundred per cent sure about: International cooperation is much better than international friction and conflict. I believe that such a venture, because it is a peace venture and a happy precedent, ought to be taken seriously into account in cost-benefit deliberations and ought to be given full support. A great "benefit" (to use the language of the cost-benefit rhetoricians) is derived from the mere fact that the world powers are working (or intend to) together; and a great "loss" is there when they work against each other.

The question one would like to pose here is: If there was to be a war between the U.S. and any of the powers listed above, would those who seem to champion the cause of Medicare and education give a damn about Medicare and education? Peace ventures deserve a chance, if not to redeem the 20th century a little before its demise, at least to have a more promising 21st century.

## France may be courting a natural disaster

**The decision to continue nuclear testing at Mururoa could trigger forces beyond the French government's control, says Pierre Vincent**

SINCE 1975, all the nuclear tests carried out in the Polynesian atoll of Mururoa have been underground. Instead of being dissipated into the atmosphere, radioactive waste is now confined within the atoll. Mururoa's 138 underground explosions have produced 138 nuclear-waste "stockpiles" located at depths of between 300 and 1,100 metres.

Is this enormous reservoir of radioactive waste self-contained and completely cut off from the outside environment? This is a question that was asked very early on. The government's response has always been that underground nuclear tests pollute neither the sea nor the atmosphere.

When he announced his decision to resume testing in Polynesia, President Jacques Chirac adopted that point of view: the tests, he said, had "absolutely no ecological consequences." His optimism was based on several reports which concluded that the level of radioactivity in Mururoa was low.

Leaving aside the reservations that have been expressed about the reports conclusions, sometimes by their authors themselves, the question is: may we extrapolate those results, as the official experts are now doing, and conclude that there is no risk in the resumption of tests? Most certainly not.

The possibility that with time, or following further explosions, increased fracturing may open up the system and allow the gradual migration of radioactive elements into the sea or the atmosphere has frequently been evoked. It is a very real risk, but one which would not necessarily imply any major change in the morphology of the atoll.

On the other hand, the risk of a sudden opening up of the system in the course of a test, which would occur if a flank of the island sheared off into the sea, has received little attention. Yet recent data on the destabilisation of volcanoes, particularly island volcanoes, shows that such a scenario needs to be taken into consideration. Like all Polynesian atolls, Mururoa is an extinct volcano which has been eroded down to sea level and then, under the effect of its own weight, has sunk below sea level at a slow enough rate (an average of millimetre a year) for the coral reef to offset the process of submergence.

The reef varies in thickness, going down to a maximum depth of 450 metres. The base of the volcano

rests on the sea floor at a depth of 3,000 metres. Its sides are very steep: the top 1,000 metres have a mean slope of 40 per cent, while the 200 metres closest to the surface are almost vertical.

Until 1988, all explosions were conducted beneath the coral ring. Its small size meant that the detonation shafts had to be bored very close to each other. Except, possibly, in two cases, the explosions were of less than 150 kilotonnes, or the equivalent of 10 bombs of the kind dropped on Hiroshima. The total explosive force of underground blasts since 1975 is probably the equivalent of some 200 Hiroshima-type bombs.

During the time the Mururoa volcano was active, parts of its flanks must have sheared off at least twice, as can be seen from its northwestern and southern coastline. In the latter case, the section which sheared off was five kilometres wide and 2,000 metres deep — which gives some idea of the volumes involved. These observations suggest very strongly that the Mururoa volcano has an internal structure which is conducive to destabilisation.

An abrupt destabilisation of a volcano was observed and understood for the first time when Mount St. Helens, in the United States, erupted on May 8, 1980. That day, three cubic kilometres of the north flank of the volcano broke away and rushed downhill, like a huge rock avalanche, for a distance of 25 kilometres from the summit, leaving the volcano decapitated.

Over the past 12 years, research into the problem, which is fundamental from a monitoring point of view, has shown that this is a normal and frequent phenomenon in the case of volcanoes that have reached a certain stage in their evolution.

The main factors conducive to the destabilisation of a volcano, apart from the steepness of its sides, are first its fracturing, and secondly its weathering.

The fracturing of the upper part of the Mururoa volcano is chiefly the result of the 138 underground nuclear blasts to which it has been subjected. Each blast creates an explosion cavity, which is surrounded by a fracture zone roughly five times larger than the

tion of 100 kilotonnes would be a small one. But such a comparison is not significant insofar as we are talking about total energy, which in the case of a volcanic eruption consists of more than 95 per cent thermal energy.

In a nuclear explosion, the proportion of mechanical energy is much higher. The blast exerts a degree of pressure on the sides of the cavity that has no equivalent in the natural world, except when giant meteorites hit the Earth (with an impact of 10 million or more atmospheres), and energy is released in a fraction of a second.

The resulting shock wave vapourises or fuses the surrounding materials, then fractures them beyond the cavity and makes the sea seethe as it emerges from the volcanic structure. The earthquake that occurs in conjunction with the shock wave weakens that structure and may even cause surface damage in the case of larger blasts set off too close to the surface (which would seem to be the case with the 120-kilotonne blast of July 25, 1979). It seems certain that his mechanical energy is appreciably higher than any which the volcano could have experienced during its period of activity.

All the factors now known to be conducive to the destabilisation of volcanoes — major weathering and fracturing of materials, and steep sides — are present at Mururoa. In view of that fact, the shock wave produced by one of the planned new explosions, even if it were conducted beneath the lagoon, could be big enough to cause one or more in the large "pre-existing" blocks to shear away. This situation, which has no parallel anywhere else, can only be described as high-risk.

The immediate consequence of such a destabilisation would be a sudden spill-out of part of the radioactive "stockpile" into the sea and the formation of a tidal wave — or, more accurately speaking, a tsunami — which would threaten the lives of those living not only in Mururoa but in neighbouring archipelagoes.

Even when there are no direct interconnections between them, the explosion cavities and their upward shafts of collapsed rock, which are close together in some sections of the coral ring, invite comparison with the holes quarrymen drill and then fill with explosives in order to cause large chunks of rock to shear away. One could almost say that the upper part of the underground volcano is now "pre-perforated."

That being the case, what now needs to be established is whether or not the energy generated by further blasts would be capable of destabilising a segment of the coral ring, or even a whole flank of the volcano, as already occurred when the volcano was still active.

A basaltic volcanic erupt-

To the Editor:

DR. ABDULLAH AL KHATIB's complaint about the embassy and accusing the consular section of the family behaviour (Letter to the Editor, Jordan Times, July 30) needs some rectification in order to be more accurate.

Since March 26, with the new Schengen-visa policy, the embassy cannot any longer issue visas for three countries (Belgium) in the same day. Due to the required consultation among the Schengen countries a waiting time of three to four weeks is indeed required. In certain cases for resident and student visas the delay might even be longer. In Dr. Khatib's case, a Belgian (V.T.L.) visa, which is only granted in some circumstances, or emergency cases, was requested and therefore an urgent consultation with our Belgian-partner in Damascus was necessary.

It seemed that Dr. Khatib did not like the idea of waiting at least one day, since he destroyed his visa application and insulted our Jordanian employee. Nevertheless, his file was immediately introduced by fax to the Dutch embassy in Damascus.

We advise him to write a letter to the Schengen-presidency in Brussels complaining about the actual three-four weeks delay. We sincerely do hope that it might contribute to the reduction of the waiting time. However, he does not mention anything about the Schengen-visa advantages: One formality, one single visa for seven countries, one fee and a validity of up to one year. Moreover, we want to add that all our visa documents are translated into Arabic.

It seems Dr. Khatib has more time to spend writing letters and inspecting the premises of the embassy instead of concentrating on his own visa application. After all, we have a reputation of being very helpful towards official institutions and individuals equally. We are sorry that we do not have a bigger infrastructure at our disposal.

We invite Dr. Khatib for a coffee and an inspection of our new premises, located 688/H Wari Boumediene Street, as from the September "Sans Rancune" and Ahien wa Sahlan!

Royal Belgian Embassy, Amman

## TCC's puzzling policies

To the Editor:

AS MUCH AS I agree with Jafar Salem's complaint about the need for telephone directory (Jordan Times, Aug. 1, 1995), I believe the bigger problem is the non-availability of telephone lines in Jordan. This issue puzzles me because

■ Communication projects yield the highest returns in the world, and the fastest growing sector for the last decade has been the communications sector.

■ Any expansion or addition of lines to the current system can be easily financed, and can give the TCC substantial returns.

■ Additional lines mean additional revenue, and hence greater profits for the TCC.

■ The lost opportunities and business encountered everyday due to the lack of telephone lines cannot be accurately estimated, but I am sure the figure is in the hundreds of millions of dinars per year.

■ The average waiting period for a new telephone line in Jordan I know people who have been waiting for eight years.

■ In today's world, every citizen has the right to basic services, such as water, sewage and electricity; and

■ The TCC is trying to privatise, yet it is not taking any steps to maximise its value.

On this note, I must emphasise the need for the TCC to privatise soon, otherwise its value will start diminishing, advancing very rapidly, and it is only a matter of time before all telecommunications become wireless. This will enable people to buy World Phones that can connect them of the globe, hence bypassing the local TCC's for each country.

On a final note, I strongly object to the system whereby people who pay triple fees get priority for telephone lines. This is discrimination against the poor. This is clearly unconstitutional.

Marwan M. Atalla, Amman



Aug. 3, 1995

Published Every Thursday

inity  
e

extremely crippling, for instance, research grants are being used by graduates, especially in sciences, no longer available. One would like to know more money could be found from NASA's side and education.

The space station could be space seen willing the U.S. Congress together on a project — we say "potential officials and the only say about the amount even though we may have the ultimate intentions of success or failure are hundred percent much better. I believe that we are and a happy people account in cost-benefit an full support, at the cost-benefit ratio that the world partner; and a great loss to each other.

ose here is: If there's any of the power to champion the cause, man about Medicare we a chance, if before its demise, in a century.

RS  
aviour:  
ault?

s complaint about section of the Jordan Times. July: to be more accurate schengen-visa policy visas for three countries to the required one as a waiting time of ed. In certain cases it might even be a T.L.) visa, which emergency cases, not consultation will be necessary.

or like the idea of waiting for his visa application. Nevertheless, his file the Dutch entered letter to the Schengen about the actual date do hope that a waiting time. How about the Schengen single visa for validity of up to one month our visa documents

**A matter of protocol:** Arriving from Tokyo Monday night was Japanese Ambassador-designate to Amman Takeaki Kimura, who succeeds Ambassador Yuji Ikeda, now special ambassador to the Middle East peace process. As the new envoy awaits to present his credentials, embassy officials politely declined to release any information on him. But we learned that he was most recently director of the Japanese Cultural Centre in the U.K. With such a background, and the issuance of the Tokyo Declaration during His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Japan to attend Jordan Week, we may well witness the birth of a Japanese cultural centre in Amman during Mr. Kimura's tenure. In the meantime, Ahlan Wa Sahlan!

**And the nominees are...** The Beijing conference, officially known as the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women, is just around the corner, and as part of the preparations the Pakistan parliament has organised a 3-day-conference for women parliamentarians from Muslim countries which is scheduled to conclude today. The Pakistani embassy here explained that it had requested that the Jordanian Parliament nominate the women parliamentarians to attend the conference. The nominees submitted by parliament were Senators Leila Sharaf and Leila Rashdan. Obviously the only other woman parliamentarian was Deputy Toujan Faisal, whose name apparently never came up. Mrs. Sharaf, we were told, had a prior commitment. So, representing Jordan's women parliamentarians, although not an elected official, was Senator Rashdan, who left for Islamabad last week. A Palestinian women's delegation made up of Leila Khaled, Hind Husseini and Lusia Tawfiq Hijazi was



Newly-weds Jalal Ghayazeh and Eman Abuzeid

also expected to participate. The conference was to be inaugurated by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and attended by the prime ministers of Turkey and Bangladesh, all leading women in their own right. On the agenda for discussion were three major themes: Projection of Islam as a religion of equality, tolerance and non-discrimination; problems common to women in Muslim countries and their solutions; and effectiveness of women's role in economic development.

**Public exposure:** If you have been spending months wondering just what those folks were up to...the cat is out of the bag. The Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange (JACEE), also known as the Binational Fullbright Commission in Jordan, has awarded 10 grants to Jordanian scholars, students and professionals for the 1995-96 academic years following the results of the commission's annual competition for these prestigious awards. The commission scored nearly 100 per cent in evenly distributing the grants among women and men. And although the competition is open to public and private universities, research centres and non-governmental organisations, clearly the public universities were the big winners. The reason is simple, says JACEE Executive Director Alain McNamara. "The candidates from the state universities were best able to meet the most rigid criteria -- it was a matter of the calibre of the nominations." The Fullbright research grants were awarded to Dr. Hasem Anabtawi of the University of Jordan physical education, affiliated with Indiana University; Dr. Mohammad Attalah, Yarmouk University, earth-and environmental sciences, affiliated with New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology; Dr. Issam Mousa, Yarmouk University, journalism, affiliated with Washington State University; and Dr. Abdel Rahim Abu Sweilem, Muta University, English, affiliated with the University of Illinois. The Fullbright foreign study grants went to Mr. Mutasim Gharawi, University of Jordan, for a Ph.D. in pharmaceutics at Oregon State University; Ms. Susan Ramadan, Yarmouk University, for a Ph.D. in English literature at Pennsylvania State University; Ms. Maysoon Nahar, University of Jordan, for a Ph.D. in archaeology at Arizona State University; Ms. Laila Omari,

Muta University, for a Ph.D. in English at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (which is in fact name of the institution and not an error); Ms. Amneh Akour, University of Jordan, for a masters degree in electronic engineering at Iowa State University; and Mr. Bani Salameh, Yarmouk University, for a masters degree in political science at Clark Atlanta University. In addition, two non-degree, nine-month grants combining academic and professional study programmes in the U.S. for mid-level professionals from the private and public sectors were awarded to Ms. Nisreen Mazahreh, an economic analyst at the Ministry of Supply, to the University of Minnesota, and Mr. Arafat H. Fayoumi, assistant head of local credit facilities at the Central Bank of Jordan, to Boston University. "These scholars and students represent Jordan's best and brightest," claims Mr. McNamara. "We congratulate them and wish them a successful and fruitful experience in the U.S."

**A good bedside manner:** It is customary for some patients to give their surgeons and nurses tokens of appreciation for the care and attention these health professionals accord them, but placing an advertisement in a newspaper introduces a new dimension, particularly when it is placed by a former leader of a neighbouring country. Here for open heart surgery at the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery was former Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Halaby. In an advertisement he placed in a local daily, Mr. Halaby thanked, in bold letters, Dr. Daoud Hanania, director general of the large medical facility for his great efforts and for those of everyone else at the centre. Mr. Halaby said he was grateful also to Dr. Hanania for "his humane feelings which he voiced to me while I was recuperating." The founders of the centre always said they envisioned their health care establishment as a centre of professional excellence that would attract patients from the entire region. Perhaps Mr. Halaby's advertisement is the pulse they are looking for.

**As fate would have it:** When Tunisian businessman Jalal Ghayazeh came to Amman from his base in Dubai looking for some legal advice, little did he know that the lawyer

he was advised to consult would one day be his bride. Last week Mr. Ghayazeh wed international commercial law expert Eman Abuzeid, daughter of the dean of all Jordanian information ministers, Salah Abuzeid, and Fouzia Abuzeid. Growing up with a father who was Jordan's first minister of information, and later foreign minister, minister of tourism, adviser to His Majesty King Hussein, and twice ambassador to London, Eman set out on her own professional path. After obtaining her bachelors and masters degrees in law from Bristol University in the U.K., she established the legal affairs department at Royal Jordanian in 1990 and headed it until she resigned earlier this year to return to her private practice. Her husband Jalal, is the son of Tawfiq and Habib Ghayazeh of Safakis, Tunisia, where the newlyweds are headed in a few days to take their vows again in a ceremony à la Tunisie. The families celebrated the happy occasion in Amman with two dinners for 200 relatives and close friends — one at the Abuzeid residence, the other in the garden of Romeo's Restaurant. The couple will reside in Dubai, but Eman's clients need not fear. She plans on maintaining her practice by shuttling between Amman and Dubai — as soon as the couple return from their open-ended honeymoon, that is.

**Animal lovers unite:** When J.T. columnist Waleed Sa'di returned this week from a vacation in Turkey, he found 34 letters in his "box" in the newsroom, all of them mailed from Italy. The content of each one was nearly identical, save for the signatories and their addresses from all over the Italian republic. The letters read: "Dear Mr. Sa'di, Thank you for your article, 'Animals have rights too,' which appeared in the Jordan Times of March 20, 1995. We wish you'll go on spreading such ideas in your country, we are all on your side. Yours truly." A few letters came from animal rights groups, some were written on recycled paper, and one bore the signatures of 12 Bolognese animal lovers. We were not able to determine who among the writers had actually seen the original J.T. column penned by Dr. Sa'di, but we were unphazed. It was just gratifying to see a group from another country mobilised to do something that they believed strongly in and lend a word of support to a comrade-in-spirit across the Mediterranean.

**And tour operators beware:** While some Italians care quite seriously about the treatment of animals, some local tour operators could not care less about the humans who just happen to be their bread and butter. But justice is on the way because Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib means business. When it was reported in the press last week that the ministry was urging all travel and tour agencies to make good on their promises to clients, what prompted that "urging" was a report on two local tour operators who were discovered to be guilty of some rather unscrupulous practices. According to Mr. Khatib one of those agencies, which he declined to name in the hope that it would mend its ways, arranged a bus trip to Turkey for a group of Jordanian tourists. When the tourists arrived to the hotel designated on their itinerary, they found they had no reservations and were "thrown out in the streets." After some manoeuvring, they were able to check into another hotel. But when it was time for them to leave, the hotel refused to release the tourists' passports. All wrath fell on the agency which arranged the trip. The ministry sought out the perpetrators and forced them to compensate the victimised tourists for their hardship. Mr. Khatib said the ministry wants to make absolutely clear that any such violations of ministry regulations will be met with the most severe penalties and fines, and, if need be, revocation of agency licenses. The minister was emphatic about protecting the rights of all tourists, and said no fraudulent activity would be tolerated.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Cool summer of contempt

### The Macmillan Years: The Emerging Truth

By Richard Lamp  
John Murray 545pp £25

A British prime minister of international reputation resigns. Against the odds, the new prime minister, catapulted into Downing Street after a vicious leadership battle, manages to win re-election. He struggles through a crisis over Britain's role in Europe, a series of rows with the American allies, economic slumps and sporadic party revolts, and heads for a new election against a rejuvenated Labour Party as sleaze and ominous official inquiries pile upon him.

The parallels between John Major and Harold Macmillan were always intriguing, in spite of the legend of leisurely competence and unflappable vision Macmillan managed to concoct in his own memoirs, and in the approved biography by Alistair Horne. But the delvings by Richard Lamp into the cabinet papers, newly opened under the 30-year rule, make the parallels compelling.

It is now plain, despite official denials, that Macmillan sought to interfere with the course of justice in the Profumo affair by trying to get the police to delay the arrest of Stephen Ward on charges of living off immoral earnings. Selling arms to Iraq may lack the spice of a Soviet naval attaché and a British minister for war sharing the favours of a tart. But the squalid evasions of the Macmillan and Major governments, faced with such scandals, have a great deal in common.

So do their foreign policies. Official legend has it that Anglo-American relations were rarely better than when Macmillan patched up the rows over Suez with President Eisenhower, his old wartime comrade-in-arms, then played the fatherly role to a grateful John Kennedy. The cabinet papers belie the claim. There were bitter disputes over U.S. insistence on being able to fire Polaris missiles almost as soon as they left the quayside at Holy Loch, whatever the British government might splutter about the need for London's consent. There were rows about the Middle East, Laos and U.S. threats to use nuclear weapons against China.

The supposed high summer of the special relationship was so cool that on the eve of the Cuban missile crisis, Macmillan doubted whether it meant anything at all, and sent the Foreign Office a

questionnaire, asking them to define it. It certainly did not include, as the FO tried to suggest, an automatic consultation in the event of a crisis. There was nothing "special" about the way Kennedy waited a full week after learning of the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba before informing the British. By that American policy had been set.

The Americans had only contempt for the way Macmillan tried to use them for his electoral advantage. He brought Eisenhower to London on the eve of the 1959 election, and invited Kennedy to stay at his private country home, Birch Grove, in 1963. The Americans ignored Macmillan's grandiose agenda for world statesmen and insisted on talking only about British Guyana, where they feared a new Castro-like government might bring Marxism to the mainland.

As Kennedy arrived at Birch Grove, he carried a note from his ambassador in London, David Bruce, warning that Macmillan's government was "mortally wounded" by the Profumo affair.

### Images of the Grey Departure

By Yousef Jameel

This book is a semi-historical, semi-autobiographical account of the period that begins with the occupation of Palestine and the subsequent establishment of the state of Israel, and ends in 1992, the date of the book's publication.

Contained within the account's autobiographical sections, is the writer's description of his personal ordeal as a refugee, fleeing the atrocities of war in a historical tragedy which he was witness to.

The style is transparent, emotional, not offset by a rigid political science style of presentation. Here, facts are interwoven with personal eyewitness accounts, ranging from the loss of a country, to life at its borders in a refugee camp. The Egyptian revolution, the ascent of the Ba'ath Party to power in both Syria and Iraq, the establishment of the PLO, the Arab summit conferences, the 1967 and 1973 wars, the Lebanese Civil War are some of the incidents scrutinised by the writer.

The style may be termed "literary-political" for the writer paces through half a century of Arab political events coloured by his personalised view. He begins from his experiences as a 7-year-old in the Palestinian village of Kufr Kannah: "I remember the beginning," Jameel writes. "voices of bombs, showers of

bullets, fear, horror encircling all."

The pictures the writer draws are gloomy, a hasty departure from the village: "I remember when I got tired my father carried me, adding thus an extra burden on him while mounting those heights and running away with the others through paths stricken with thorns and sharp rocky edges. I'm looking with fearful eyes at my father who was exhausted by his human burden and at my silent mother. I remember her with her tears and her children's embrace."

The camp he describes as "exposed to the sun; its glow whips us and thorns on the road eat into our feet and the winter pinches us. Home is a tent and in the tent I grew; the tent which got wide to the point of engulfing our exile and homelessness."

The writer then goes on to describe contemporary historical events in the Arab World. He draws on an Arab reality marked by disunity before 1967, but to which dignity was restored by the 1968 Karameh Battle. The writer finally brings us into the present decade with the intifada, which, according to the writer, was the final incident that led Israel to follow the path of peace.

Published by Yarmouk University Press, it is Yousef Jameel's second book.

Muhammad D. Tahboub

## BOOK REVIEWS

Gaulle's apparent readiness to grant Britain EEC membership in return for nuclear secrets, gets too little attention. Another 60 pages rehash the very messy process of decolonisation in Africa. By contrast, the 1959 general election, economic policy and the two key Chancellors, Selwyn Lloyd and Maudling, get 40 pages all told.

This odd ordering of priorities combines with a broad lack of analysis to produce archivism, rather than history. And Lamb's archivism is not wholly reliable. Overwhelmed by source material in the Public Record Office, he seems unaware of vital aspects of the Cuban crisis: the presence of Soviet tactical nuclear weapons; and Kennedy's secret deal with Khrushchev to remove the U.S. missile bases in Turkey. Macmillan's memoirs say he would "never have consented". The Americans never bothered to tell him — The Guardian.

Martin Walker



## No more toys

By Jean-Claude Elias

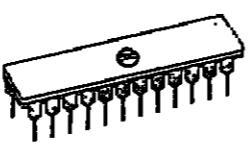
Having been in the computer business for nearly twenty years now, I have preconceived ideas, full of scepticism towards new products. Even if this attitude sadly reveals my age (and hopefully my experience), it has often helped me avoid unnecessary hardware purchases and wasting time testing poor programmes.

Until now notebooks — those amazing small sized, fully integrated computers — hadn't made it to my list of "professionally accepted" products. Though in the market since about 1988, portable computers were constantly well behind full size, desktop machines in terms of characteristics. In my opinion their small size and light weight were just not enough to cover their weaknesses, though I suspect that even the early models must have helped many a travelling businessman or salesman perform his job.

Before 1995, notebooks' major flaw was a poor quality screen display, monochrome for most. Rechargeable batteries, in the best case, would make them work for four to six short hours only. Even the processing power (processor speed, memory and disk capacity) were not really up to professional standards. All this has changed now.

New models can proudly compete with their big desktop brothers. Displays with active colours — much better than passive screens — will show you superb colours and super fine characters and graphics resolution. Even Pentium processors are now available in the magic A4 notebook format. Some models can be fitted with 16 or 32 MB (million characters)

## chip talk



memory and 540 MB hard disks. More than enough to run any piece of software. Need a built-in fax-modem? No problem, it's been made so small that you won't even notice it's inside the notebook.

The biggest breakthrough however, the one that converted me, is the new type of batteries: they will keep you computing for 10 hours in a row before they need recharging. That's practically two days of work, or a very long one. Or a non-stop Amman-Singapore flight with the notebook on your laptop.

Convincing the most sceptical, the new types of hard disks that notebooks are equipped with can withstand higher levels of shocks and vibrations, making the machines truly heavy-duty and suitable for war reporters or other "hard field" situations.

The very demanding can ask for a built-in pointer. It's integrated in the keyboard and comes as a very handy replacement for a mouse. Unless one doesn't use Windows, a mouse or a similar pointing device is a must.

Yesterday's toys have graduated to professional machines and we've grown a little bit older.

## The oddities of culture

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Personal safety, the freedom from risk and injury, and product design have lately become the targets of a worldwide campaign the declared aim of which is to improve the safety of all individuals, whether at home, at work or out on the streets.

Some of the main issues that are being targeted include the accessibility by children to harmful substances when left unsupervised in the home, hazardous materials and machinery in the workplace and the technologies used to test the safety features in the latest car designs.

But while it remains generally accepted that the first steps to be undertaken in any such campaign should be a bundle of surveys that would help identify which products and which packaging design are causing what kinds of accidents and which age group is more liable to suffer such accidents, several societies remain lagging behind where such statistics are concerned.

Certainly manufacturers, and industry as a whole, have got a duty to their customers to provide them with safe products. Any warning signs on such products should be easily understood and clearly legible.

The latest crash tests for vehicles have highlighted a certain design fault in some small cars of the hatchback category where the back seats could be pulled down to give more storage room in the trunk. The problem was that when heavy items were stored in the trunk, these times were generally thrown forward, through the back seats and into the passenger compartment placing the passengers in these seats in the very grave position where they were likely to be crushed under the weight of such items.

And the problem? It seemed that the blame lay with the pins that held the back of the seats. All such car models were recalled and fitted with stiffer supports.

In the more developed societies, the fascination with safety has taken a twisted turn. Faith in the idea of being able to sue manufacturers for compensation has grown to such an extent that it has become a dangerous element. As companies fear that they will be sued over an unsafe product or an injury sustained as a result of a faulty design, the process of product improvement in a competitive market has become filled with risks.

In the medical field, doctors are being burdened by insurance against litigation and new medical technology is being assessed on its legal implications as well as on its possible benefits.

In such cultures where the fear of compensation hangs over just about anything, risks will not be taken because the potential cost is too high. And lawyers have a cunning talent for subverting sense when their fees are at stake.

Rather than accepting life as intrinsically dangerous, people are tending to assume that there is a right to safety which can be infinitely extended.

What remains really amusing about this whole condition is that the demands for safety within this culture of compensation have developed in parallel to another culture where risk and danger are just about everything. This is the culture where dangerous forms of entertainment are hip, e.g. bungee-jumping, and where movies embrace the fantasy of destruction and violent triumph.

In real life, we demand safety. While at the same time, we demand danger from the realms of fantasy. We want to feel danger, but only from a distance.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- What sort of a man is he? *Ayyo anwa ar-rijal howa?*
- He's sociable and always optimistic. *How ijtima' wa da'im'an mutafa'el.*
- What kinds of drinks do you like? *Ayyo anwa'u mashrobat akthar tafdeelan indaka?*
- Mango, strawberry and orange juices. *Ass'a'r al-mango, wal-farawla wal-burtugal.*
- What people did you meet yesterday? *Ayyan'as qabalta ams?*
- The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the weak and the strong. *As-sighar wal-kibar, al-aghnaya wal-fuqara, ad-du'a'fa wal-aqweya.*
- Which way shall you go? *Ayya tareek sawfa nas'luk?*
- The shortest and the safest. *At-tareek al-aqsar wal-aslam.*
- What places have you visited lately? *Ayyal ammaakin zurtaha fil-fatral-akhira?*
- All the Asian and African capitals in the Middle East. *Kollal awasim al-asya'wiya wal-ifreeqiya fish'sharr el-awsat.*

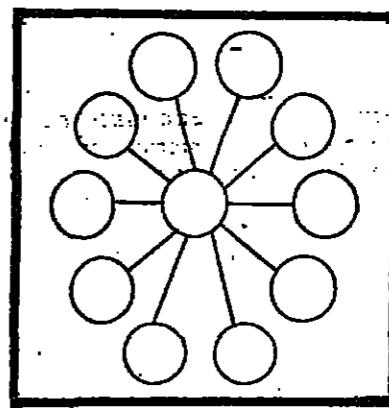
### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In horse riding, what is a "cripper"?
2. In boxing, what is a "south-paw"?
3. Pall mall is a London Street, but what was pall mall when it was not a street?
4. In angling, what is a "galf"?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

Can you arrange the numbers from 1 to 11 in the circles shown so that the total of the numbers along any straight line is the same as any other total?



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

at rest for males, and 78-82 for females. This can increase to 200 or more during violent exercise or drop to as low as 12 in the extreme case of Dorothy Mae Stevens who recorded the lowest pulse ever taken by doctors when she was found in an alley in Chicago on Feb. 1, 1951. Her temperature (59 F) returned to normal after 12 hours.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

\* The longest heart stoppage is a minimum of 3 hours 32 minutes in the case of Miss Jean Jawborno, 20, who was revived by a team of 26, using peritoneal dialysis, in Winnipeg Medical Centre, Manitoba, Canada, on Jan. 19, 1977.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

\* G. Stuart Keith of the American Museum of Natural History, shown below with a Fiji lory, has sighted more than 5,000 different species of birds.



### ASTOUNDING FACTS

\* A normal adult pulse rate is 70-72 beats per minute

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

**Thursday, Aug. 3**

Starring: Diane Lane & Cloris Leachman

1:30 Iris-The Happy Professor

The story of a pretty and energetic young university student who enters the state of Texas beauty pageant to gain a scholarship and further her music studies.

1:40 Noddy

12:00 Shogun

2:00 Fireman Sam

Friday, Aug. 4

2:15 My Secret Identity

1:00 Read-A-Alle Deed-A-Alle

2:30 N.B.A.

1:15 Beethoven

3:00 Pirates Island

1:30 Why I didn't Think Of That

3:30 Take Your Pick

2:00 White Fang

4:00 I Witness Video

2:30 Movie — Bonanza: The Return

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Varieties And Game Show — Le Monde Est A Vous

7:00 Le Journal

1:30 Magazine — Portrait D'Alain Cavalier

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 National Geographic

8:30 The Album Show

The story of patriarch Ben Cartwright and his three sons all from different mothers...

9:15 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Miss American Beauty

4:00 The Crystal Maze

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Telefilm — Rhesus Romeo

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — E = M6

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 African Skies

8:00 Coach

8:30 Jordan Today

9:15 Wild Side

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Switching Parents

11:00 The Powers That Be

Saturday, Aug. 5

4:00 Back To The Future

2:50 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Road To Avonlea

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Documentary — C'est Pas Sorcier

6:00 Place En Garde A Vue

7:00 Le Journal

7:30 News Headlines

8:00 Major Dad

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Dramas — Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman

10:00 News In English

10:20 Touch And Die

Starring: Martin Sheen & Veronique Jannot

The story of an American journalist in Rome who is assigned to cover the murders of three people. His investigations reveal a conspiracy by covert arms dealers to smuggle nuclear materials to Third World nations.

11:30 Fortunate Pilgrim

Sunday, Aug. 6

2:00 The Animals Of Farthing Wood

2:30 The Flintstones

2:30 The Mighty Jungle

3:00 Pugwall's Summer

3:30 Movie Magic

4:00 Families

5:00 Spirou

5:30 La Marche Du Silence

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 French Varieties

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Camp Wilder

8:00 McHale's Navy

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Harts Of The West

10:00 News In English

10:25 Strathblair

10:00 News In English

10:25 Touch And Die

11:30 The Hidden Room

12:00 Grace Under Fire

Monday, Aug. 7

2:00 The Animals Of Farthing Wood

2:30 Hey Dad!

3:00 Survival

4:00 Families

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Magazine — Mountain

7:00 Taratata

7:15 Magazine — Faust Pas Rever

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 You Bet Your Life

8:00 Piglet Files

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Urban Angel

10:00 News In English

## Stars in trouble ease PR damage in different ways

By Bob Thomas  
The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Hugh Grant finally has finished his rounds of the TV talk shows, having added a new wrinkle to the science of Hollywood spin control: career rescue by public exclamation.

Arrested in flagrante with a sunset strip hooker, Grant faced significant damage to his squeaky-clean image and new sta-

tus as a big-money Hollywood player. But his televised confessional, which coincided with promotion for his new movie, *Nine Months*, seem to have repaired much of the damage.

"It's a no-win situation," observes veteran film publicist Harry Klein. "The best you can hope for is to come out breathing, and Grant seems to have done that... If he had hidden from something

like this, it probably would have gotten much worse."

Longtime publicist Bruce Feldman agrees Grant used the right strategy.

"He was able to put himself out in public, show that he had a good sense of humor and was somewhat humble," Feldman said. "He made himself accessible, so his interviewers weren't too hard on him."

Feldman cited another effective use of mass media to quell a scandal, this one the mammoth cost overruns on Waterworld, a Universal Pictures release.

"Kevin Costner is out there with Letterman and all over the place, being friendly and cheerful," said Feldman. "People really like him, and he's showing himself to be very likeable. I think the picture has turned a real corner as a result."

Meanwhile, actor Charlie Sheen is taking the hush-hush approach after getting caught with his pants down.

Last week, the scion of the Sheen-Estevez family sweated through a videotape he made for a federal jury in the trial of Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss on charges of tax evasion and money laundering.

Sheen admitted that he had ordered Fleiss' call girls at least 27 times, racking up a tab of more than \$50,000.

The 29-year-old actor issued a statement

through a spokesman apologizing to "my family, my future wife, my close friends, for any embarrassment these incidents may have caused."

But that was it. Unlike Grant, there have been no shameful comments to Jay, no sorrowful afterthoughts with Dave.

Apparently, Sheen's approach is to clam up.

Publicists generally feel Sheen has done the right thing. After all, how can he set in Leno's or Letterman's couch and chat about shelling out \$1,500 to \$3,000 for "heterosexual services," and once on Christmas Day, no less?

Sheen might take heart from the examples of past stars who became embroiled in scandals and whose careers survived nicely with little or no spin control:

In 1935, Mary Astor was sued by her ex-husband for custody of their daughter on the grounds the actress was an unsuitable mother. The evidence was her diary,

which purported to list her affairs with famous Holly-

wood males. Miss Astor won the suit, and the diary was never revealed. Her career thrived for decades, highlighted by an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress in 1941 for *The Great Lie*.

— Errol Flynn at the height of his career in 1942 was tried for statutory rape of two teenage girls on his yacht. He was acquitted, and he became a bigger star than ever. "In Like Flynn" became a national catch phrase.

— In 1948, Robert Mitchum was arrested while smoking marijuana with a starlet in her apartment. The married actor served two months in the county slammer and emerged so much in demand that Howard Hughes bought his contract from David Selznick for \$200,000.

— The rising star Carole Landis committed suicide in 1948, reportedly because her lover, Rex Harrison, would not leave his wife. Harrison left Hollywood soon after the tragedy, but returned years later to win an Oscar



British actor Hugh Grant is shown in a Los Angeles Police department booking photograph following his arrest

for *My Fair Lady*. — In 1958, Cheryl Crane stabbed to death mobster Johnny Stompanato in the bedroom of her mother, Lana Turner.

Turner, who had been

trying to end a romance with Stompanato, continued as one of the highest-paid actresses in films.



Charlie Sheen

## At 78, Ernest Borgnine still an actor in demand

By Lynn Elber  
The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — A palm reader laid it all out for navy gunner's mate Ernest Borgnine 50 years ago: Nothing but good things. A great future. Lots of money.

Relaxing in his sunny, spacious hilltop home, his Marty best-actor Oscar standing guard on a bookshelf, Borgnine seems a testament to the soothsayer.

He is a robust, 78, still an actor in demand and preparing to start work on a new NBC comedy. The Single Guy. Tova, his wife of 22 years, is a cosmetics tycoon. "Believe me, quite a girl," Borgnine says.

And he has the freedom and energy to jump into his 40-foot (12-metre) bus, dubbed the Sunbum, and flit around the country from RV park to RV park, stopping happily to sign autographs and accept hellos from surprised truckers.

His indelible portrayal of the kind, lonely butcher in Marty and the likable navy captain in the TX series McHale's Navy overcame his early, villainous screen image. That suits Borgnine, who revels in the real-life role of forthright, good-natured American.

His hero is Abraham Lincoln, whom Borgnine calls "the only good politician, because he was for the people." The burly actor is a proud member of the Masons Fraternal Order and unabashedly sentimental.

The Single Guy caught his eye. Given the odds of success in television, Borgnine figured he'd probably just make the series' pilot and be done.

But then NBC picked up the show for the fall and gave it a choice Thursday night slot between the hit comedies Friends and Seinfeld.

"I'm stuck with it, but I'm going to enjoy it," Borgnine says.

"I'm not carrying the show," he adds. "But believe me, my little five minutes in there will be fun, and that's what I want."

"Listen, for 13 weeks. I'm sure I can do it. If it goes longer, fine. I'll be the oldest actor extant in television."

Quest has eight perfum-

ers that's what you're selling."

Borgnine began selling himself as a performer after a 10-year stint in the navy, which included

World War II duty protecting the east coast from enemy invasion (his ship encountered one submarine, he says, but it got away).

After an apprenticeship in the theatre in the late 1940s, a series of TV and movie parts followed. His breakthrough role came in the unexpected vehicle of Marty (1955).

The small, poignant story of a humble butcher's love for a homely woman almost didn't get made, Borgnine says. Its producers, including Burt Lancaster, had intended the project as a tax write-off.

Borgnine also made a determined effort to avoid Marty typecasting. His next feature film was the musical, *The Best Things In Life Are Free*. He says he decided to veer from movies to television and McHale's Navy because he wanted the exposure.

His latest return to television comes in a supporting role, as a lovable doorman who meddles in the life of The Single Guy star Jonathan Silverman. He was pressured into taking the job, Borgnine explains.

His agent, his wife and his secretary all chided him for being unemployed. "C'mon, you can't just tinker around with your bus all the time, going here and there," they told him.

The Single Guy caught his eye. Given the odds of success in television, Borgnine figured he'd probably just make the series' pilot and be done.

But then NBC picked up the show for the fall and gave it a choice Thursday night slot between the hit comedies Friends and Seinfeld.

"I'm stuck with it, but I'm going to enjoy it," Borgnine says.

"I'm not carrying the show," he adds. "But believe me, my little five minutes in there will be fun, and that's what I want."

"Listen, for 13 weeks. I'm sure I can do it. If it goes longer, fine. I'll be the oldest actor extant in television."

Quest has eight perfum-

## Huge salaries still demonstrate star power

By Bob Thomas  
The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — What makes a movie star?

Billy Wilder once remarked that the camera had a "love affair" with stars like Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich and Marilyn Monroe, all of whom he worked with.

The great English actress Ellen Terry defined star quality as "that little something extra," though she couldn't explain what that little something extra was.

"A star is someone who attracts your attention even when he or she isn't doing anything," suggests George Sidney, who directed dozens of stars during MGM's golden years.

"Spencer Tracy could be standing behind Clark Gable and just nodding, but you couldn't help notice him."

"Stars have a kind of inner magic that makes you want to look at them. Michelle Pfeiffer is like that. So were Lana Turner, Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth. You can't take your eyes off them."

Whatever creates stars, two things can be certain:

1. The movie business can't exist without them.

2. Stardom can be very

very expensive.

To illustrate No. 2: Jim

Carrey, a little-known comedian two years ago, recently signed a \$20 million contract for his fifth movie. Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis and Tom Hanks also can earn that kind of money.

The star system did not emerge immediately with the birth of movies a century ago. In the beginning, the actors were anonymous, and they remained so in the first decade of the 1900s. But the sudden popularity of movies prompted the public to

rethink its standards.

The first superstar was

Mary Pickford.

The winsome little girl with the long curls started at biograph in 1909 for \$40 a week. Seven years later, Adolph Zukor, gave her \$10,000 a week, plus a \$350,000 bonus and her own company. In 1917, she moved to first national at \$250,000 per picture, and she made seven films that year.

Charlie Chaplin became

the other great star of

silent films. Starting in

1913 with Mack Sennett, his little tramp captured audiences throughout the world. By 1918, he was being paid more than \$1 million for eight two-reel comedies.

Thus, Laemmle intro-

duced the first publicity

stunt, the first personal

appearance, and the star

system.

The first superstar was

Mary Pickford.

The formation of Un-

ited Artists in 1919 hit the

industry with the same im-

pact of 1995's Dream

Works SKG. The biggest

stars of silent films —

Pickford, Chaplin, Doug-

glas Fairbanks — and the

biggest director, D.W.

Griffith, joined to pro-

duce and distribute their

own films.

United Artists marked

the zenith of star power in

silent films. The 1920s

brought the consolidation

of control in the hands of a

few big studios, which

assumed the tempo of the

1930s. The major studios

show their product. Stars

remained important, but

most of them were tied to

studio contracts.

☆ ☆ ☆

"You ain't heard nothin'

yet."

Al Jolson's prophetic

words in the 1927 *The Jazz*

Singer signalled the end of

the silent era and the birth

of a new generation of

U.S. stars. Most of the

silent actors were swept

away by a new breed from

Broadway and Vaudeville

— fast-talking, vital, ex-

uberant.

United Artists marked

the zenith of star power in

silent films. The 1920s

brought the consolidation

of control in the hands of a

few big studios, which

assumed the tempo of the

1930s. The major studios

show their product. Stars

remained important, but

most of them were tied to

studio contracts.

☆ ☆ ☆

"You ain't heard nothin'

yet."

Al Jolson's prophetic



# Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 3-4, 1995 7

## Americans ask what was the price of victory

By Arthur Spiegelman  
Reuter

NEW YORK — What price victory?

Fifty years after it dropped atomic bombs on Japan to end history's bloodiest war, the United States is marking the anniversary of one of its most important victories with a public soul-searching.

It is a debate born of being the only nation to inflict the atom bomb's blinding light, black rain, mushroom-shaped cloud and murderous radiation on civilian targets.

Did the war have to be won that way? And what price did the United States and the rest of the world pay for nuclear victory?

Did it make the United

States the world's most powerful nation and effectively prevent another world war, as many have argued, or did it — as many others have also argued — usher in a maniacal arms race and a tradition of government by secrecy?

With an intensity not seen in years, many Americans are challenging President Harry Truman's "the buck stops here" decision to use the bomb, arguing that 50 years of denial and cover-up about Hiroshima must end.

And many others are fighting back.

Mr. Truman always maintained that the decision was his and alone and that it was done for one reason only — to spare the hundreds of thousands of

American lives that would be lost in an invasion of the Japanese mainland where battles would be fought to the death in every street and dark alley.

But a series of television documentaries, magazine articles, public debates and new books — like "Hiroshima in America" by Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell and "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb" by Gay Alferovitz — are challenging each one of those assertions and are asking what use of that deadly weapon did to American society.

They say Japan was about to surrender, that the Russian entry into the war had, more than any bomb, spelled the end. They also say the bomb was dropped to impress the Russians and

to justify the secret spending of \$2 billion on making it.

"The bomb was dropped because it was in the bureaucratic pipeline to drop it. We had the bomb so we used it. No one expected it to win the war," says historian Gabriel Kolko, author of a "A Century of War."

For every attack there is a counter-attack. The U.S. Post Office is forced to withdraw a stamp with a mushroom-shaped cloud on it out of deference for vanquished Japan.

The Smithsonian Museum in Washington is forced to censor an exhibit on the Enola Gays, the plane that carried the bomb, out of deference for vanquished Japan.

But while the victors agonise 50 years later for their atomic deed, the vanquished are criticised for refusing to apologise for its acts in the war. Japan issues regrets but no apology.

World War II also came a false sense of security.

"The immediate effect of the world works: You can kill your enemy and he can kill you. In the Cuban missile crisis we came within hours of starting a nuclear winter. We had 7,000 megatons of nuclear weapons in the air and the Russians had 23 megatons of the same weapons stationed in Cuba," says Mr. Rhodes.

"Science taught the world a new fact about how the world works: You can kill your enemy and he can kill you. In the Cuban missile crisis we came within hours of starting a nuclear winter. We had 7,000 megatons of nuclear weapons in the air and the Russians had 23 megatons of the same weapons stationed in Cuba," says Mr. Rhodes.

"The victory left the United States a political, military and economic superpower so strong that it became the world's dominant power and could wage and win almost five decades of cold war with the Soviet Union."

But says Pulitzer prize-winning historian Richard Rhodes, author of the just published "Dark Sun," a history of the making of the hydrogen bomb, out of

necessarily as a deterrent.

"Science taught the world a new fact about how the world works: You can kill your enemy and he can kill you. In the Cuban missile crisis we came within hours of starting a nuclear winter. We had 7,000 megatons of nuclear weapons in the air and the Russians had 23 megatons of the same weapons stationed in Cuba," says Mr. Rhodes.

"The victory left the United States a political, military and economic superpower so strong that it became the world's dominant power and could wage and win almost five decades of cold war with the Soviet Union."

"Socially, politically, economically, militarily, culturally, racially, sexually, demographically, even

the nuclear deterrent became a weapon many countries — big and small — hunger for and not

It was a very expensive victory, he added.

## Syria accuses Israel of playing games in peace talks

TRIPOLI (AP) — A top Syrian official Wednesday accused Israel of playing games in U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations between the two Middle East foes.

Syrian Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Mustafa Tlass also charged that the Israelis were not serious about reaching peace with Syria.

He spoke to reporters in the town of Zgharta just east of the northern port city of Tripoli.

Mr. Tlass, who doubles as deputy prime minister, was inspecting Syrian troops based in northern Lebanon on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Syrian army.

He was accompanied by senior Syrian army officers.

Asked about the fate of the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Tlass said: "So far, the negotiations have not produced anything because the Israelis want negotiations for the sake of negotiations, while we want them to achieve a specific goal, that is peace."

Syrian-Israeli talks reached a crisis point in mid-July after Damascus reportedly refused to send its chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Hikmat Shehab, back to negotiations in Washington with his Israeli counterpart, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shabak..

Mr. Tlass said Syria will

not accept under any circumstances Israeli early warning stations on the

Golan, maintaining that would amount to "spying."

"Even if one Israeli soldier stays on the Golan, we consider it as an infringement on our sovereignty," Mr. Tlass added.

He said Syria offered to accept monitoring of the borders through satellites and planes, but Israel insisted on ground warning stations.

The minister warned the Israelis that Syria will not bow to their "game play."

"It's a finger-biting game and President Hafez Assad, who enjoys cool nerves unequalled by any Arab or international leader, is a master in this field," Mr. Tlass said.

out of His Majesty and the accompanying delegation.

The King is accompanied on the visit by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Hamzeh, Prince Hashem and Prince Talal,

who is the King's military secretary. The King is also accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the King's advisor Hmeidi Al Fayed.

The King was seen off at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was sworn in as Regent, members of the Royal Family and senior officials

Some warn it will bring God's curse on Pakistan.

One Islamic cleric issued a fatwa, or edict, declaring Ms. Bhutto a non-Muslim after she said it was barbaric to cut

## Benazir Bhutto urges Muslim women to unite

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Muslim woman in the workforce faces a lonely existence, berated by conservatives who want her to stay at home, hidden behind a veil, while cynics wait for her to stumble and fail.

That was Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's portrayal Wednesday of the life of a working woman in a traditional Muslim society. She should know.

As the first woman to lead a modern Muslim state, Ms. Bhutto has been branded a heretic by more than one Islamic cleric, abused and taunted by others who believe a woman in a powerful public job violates the tenets of Islam.

Some warn it will bring God's curse on Pakistan.

One Islamic cleric issued a fatwa, or edict, declaring Ms. Bhutto a non-Muslim after she said it was barbaric to cut

... talks like obscurantist groups," she said. "In a sense it is very lonely facing these obscurantists on our own."

"How do we combat those groups that say a woman should not leave the four walls of her house? If she does, then they say she is responsible for any assault made upon her," said Ms. Bhutto. "How do we face prejudice and social taboos?"

As she spoke warmed to her subject, portraying herself as a spokeswoman for Muslim women and Pakistan "as a voice of moderation" in the Islamic World.

She talked about her heroes — Margaret Thatcher and her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. "How do we face prejudice and social taboos?"

Ms. Thatcher she admired, Ms. Bhutto said, but her father was the one who inspired her to fly in the face of tradition to enter politics. "It was my father who in-

spired me and encouraged me, gave me the strength and confidence to express my views ... when such a thing was unheard of in the Muslim World," she said when she opened the conference.

Her father was overthrown in a bloodless coup in 1977 and hung by the dictator Gen. Mohammad Zia ul Haq in 1979.

With a white scarf that fell casually over her head in keeping with Islamic tradition, Ms. Bhutto said she hoped this conference would Galvanise Muslim women to demand changes in legislation and take on their conservative opponents.

"I sincerely hope that this conference will consider the issue of establishing durable arrangements to make the role of women parliamentarians in Muslim countries most effective with practical solutions," she said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lawmakers slam Clinton over nuclear plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of U.S. lawmakers accused President Bill Clinton of failing to speak out against Cuba's plans to finish building a Russian-technology nuclear plant just 150 kilometres from U.S. shores. "A loud silence can be heard from the White House on this critical and important issue to the national security of the United States," said Florida Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, one of the Republicans testifying before a House subcommittee. Construction on the Juragua nuclear facility in the northern Cienfuegos province was halted in 1992 because of Cuba's cash crunch, but Russia has pledged \$30 million in aid to Cuba to help defray the costs.

Ros-Lehtinen warned of "dangerous deficiencies in the plant's construction which could lead to a nuclear accident which will likely affect Central America, the Caribbean, the United States and, of course, Cuba." And Florida Representative Peter Deutch warned that an accident at the plant would cause "the largest environmental disaster in the history of the world."

The Republicans, whose party took control of Congress this year, argued that the only solution was to destroy the plant. The White House expressed its first real concern about the plant two weeks ago when State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "We have a lot of questions about the Juragua nuclear power plant, about Russia's involvement and the assistance that Russia is giving this."

The comments came after Russian officials said a consortium of companies from Russia, Brazil, Britain, Germany and Italy was willing to help finish the project.

**China floods leave 60 dead, missing**

BEIJING (R) — The worst floods in a century along northeastern China's Hunhe River have left more than 60 people dead on missing and hundreds of thousands homeless after rivers burst their banks, officials said Wednesday. More than 20,000 soldiers have been mobilised to rescue several thousand people trapped by flood waters around Liaoyang city in Liaoning province, an official of the Flood and Drought Control Headquarters in Sarajevo from Paris to withdraw 70 French U.N. soldiers who make up part of more than 200 peacekeepers in the enclave, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanov said.

The withdrawal is to be completed by Thursday morning at the latest and includes Ukrainian, Russian and British U.N. troops.

Zepa town, a U.N. safe area, was overrun by the Bosnian Serb two weeks ago. More than 4,000 civilians, mainly women and children, have been evacuated from the government area.

**U.N. warns**

(Continued from page 1) Israelis on Oct. 19, 1994, and has been renewed at three-month intervals since then.

Mr. Rabit told the committee the permit was needed to end attacks on Israeli, Israel Radio said. Six Israeli were killed in the latest bus bombing in Tel Aviv last week.

The unexpected refusal to rubber-stamp the permit reportedly came after Justice Minister David Libai and other dovish committee

members raised concerns that the measures were excessive, noting a Palestinian detainee had died in custody in April.

An autopsy revealed that Abdul Samad Hanizat, 29, died after being violently shaken by interrogators acting in accordance with the new permit's guidelines.

In 1984, the Shin Bet was criticised after two agents were accused of covering up the beating deaths of two Palestinian bus hijackers, and agency head Avraham

Shalom was forced to resign. A subsequent inquiry commission headed by Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau severely chastised the Shin Bet in 1987 for more than 16 years of systematic perjury. But the Landau commission also controversy by authorising the so-called use of "moderate physical pressure" against Palestinian detainees.

The current guidelines, whose specifics have never been made public, go even

further.

A top security official told the AP the Shin Bet was "between a rock and a hard place."

"On one hand we would like to see ourselves as a legal agency operating in a democratic state ... (but) we are under tremendous pressure from both the public and our superiors to prevent these attacks," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

McCurry said. "We expressed our understanding about the joint efforts that have been underway to relieve the pressure on BiHac itself, and some of the efforts that — jointly they have been undertaking to deal with Serb aggression on the BiHac pocket in recent weeks," Mr. McCurry said.

But U.S. officials also "have urged that their forces exercise the utmost restraint, that they seek to minimise civilian casualties as they conduct their operations currently, that they respect the human rights of the civilian population, and ensure the safety of United Nations personnel in the area," he said.

**Peacekeepers withdraw from Zepa**

Meanwhile, all U.N.

**King Fahd reshuffles cabinet**

(Continued from page 12)

— Minister of posts, telegraphs and telecommunications: Ali Ibn Talal Juhani (new).

— Minister of information: Fuad Ibn Abdel Salam Ibn Mohammad Farsi (new).

— Minister of municipal and rural affairs: Mohammad Ibn Ibrahim Jarallah (new).

— Minister of education: Mohammad Al Rashid (new).

— Minister of transport: Nasr Ibn Mohammad Al Salam (new).

— Minister of industry and

electricity: Hashem Ibn Abdallah Ibn Hashem Yamaani (new).

— Minister of labour and social affairs: Muzzed Ibn Mohammad Al Sionani (new).

— Ministers of state without portfolio: Mutlab Ibn Abdallah, Al Nassir (new). Abdelaiz Ibn Ibrahim Al Manchi (new). Muzzed Ibn Mohammad Al Ayoubi (new).

— Minister of education: Madani Ibn Abdel Kader Allaqa (new). Abdelaiz Ibn Abdallah Al Khawiter (former education minister).

Mohammad Ibn Aziz Al Sheikh (former minister of municipal affairs).

**Islamic dress violence shocks Turkey**

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish mother and daughter have been shot dead by male relatives for dressing immodestly in the latest violent row over Islamic dress code which has shocked Turkey's secularists, the Milliyet daily said Wednesday. Emine Deniz, 40, and her daughter Hamide 22, were gunned down in the street in the Black Sea

province of Samsun Monday by four male members of their family for "dressing revealingly," the paper said. Only last

week an Islamist gunman in the sleepy northern town of Gümüşhane killed the head of legal association who refused to let female lawyers wear Islamic headscarves in court. The killer, who travelled hundreds of miles from his home to carry out the attack, has told police he had also planned to murder the rector of Istanbul University and two professors for banning female students from wearing headscarves. Secularist education authorities strongly disapprove of headscarves, but allow universities to ban them at their own discretion. Despite being 99 per cent Muslim, Turkey has been strictly secular since a series of westernising reforms in the 1920s. Many women, like stylish Prime

### Unlicensed Sudanese journalists risk jail

KARTOUM (R) — Journalists in Sudan who are not licensed with the state-run Press Council risk being jailed and fined, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Al Fatih Al Seed of the journalist's committee, an affiliate of the government-appointed National Council for Press and Publication, warned that unlicensed journalists face a one-month jail term and a fine of £500,000 Sudanese (5910), according to the private Akbar Al Youm daily.

Seed said committee members would pay unannounced visits to newspaper offices to find journalists who were working without the necessary certificate from the council, which was formed in 1993 and is supervised by President Omar Hassan Al Bashir. Since the council was established, it has been mandatory for local and foreign journalists to register with the journalist's committee, which has accredited 596 journalists so far. Journalists deemed experienced are usually accredited without delay but the committee insists that some journalists sit an exam to prove their abilities.

### Bank robber fed up with waiting for pension

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli pensioner, tired of queuing at the bank for his monthly old age allowance, decided to try a holdup to speed up the service, police said Wednesday. "This is a holdup," the 73-year-old yelled, rushing the counter at a central Tel Aviv bank on Tuesday.

The teller sounded a hidden alarm button and police arrived swiftly. A police spokesman said the man made no attempt to resist and was handcuffed and led away. The would-be robber, who was not named, received a stern talking to and was

# Economy

## Japan new currency steps yield sudden dollar rise

TOKYO (R) — Japan launched a new drive Wednesday to tackle the yen's rise by promoting the flow of Japanese capital abroad — and was quickly rewarded with a huge surge in the value of the dollar to a nearly five-month high.

The surprise announcement of steps removing barriers to public and private Japanese institutions' overseas investment and loans, combined with Bank of Japan intervention, boosted the dollar to 90,000 yen its highest level since March 17.

Currency traders said they expected the dollar to go even higher in the short-term, but some economists were cautious.

The measures included scrapping limits on insurers' participation in syndicated loans and on their foreign currency loans to overseas borrowers.

Also announced were steps to promote the flow of government funds abroad through such means as actively disbursing loans to help developing nations reform export-driven economies.

A senior finance ministry official said the moves would facilitate the outward flow of Japanese capital — a decline in which was a key factor behind the yen's surge in recent months.

"If we can have a fair amount of export of capital, the exchange rate would change," Etsuro Sakakibara,

director-general of the ministry's International Finance Bureau, told reporters.

The yen's rise has threatened to tip Japan's stalled economy into recession.

Tokyo's latest attempt to reverse it comes after an aggressive push last month failed to boost the dollar to its near-term target of 90 yen.

The fresh measures came "just at the time when we don't have any economic stimulus on the monetary or fiscal side coming through, and secondly when... the very bullish dollar sentiment we saw a few weeks ago kind of waning," said Mineko Sasaki-Smith, senior economist at Morgan Stanley.

"So this is a desperate attempt," she said.

Currency dealers said the steps would help boost the supply of yen and ease the chronic dollar surplus which has been a key reason for the dollar's weakness and the yen's strength.

Giants life insurer Nippon Life Insurance Co. welcomed the steps, saying they would help reverse the yen's rise.

Some economists, however, were cautious about the long-term impact and said it would take time to see whether Japanese institutions, many badly hurt by the bursting of Japan's 1980's asset bubble and by the yen's rise, were really prepared to substantially boost overseas investment.

If not, the persistently high

level of Japan's current account surplus, combined with low levels of outward capital flows might spell continued yen strength, they said.

"We got into the situation in the first place because Japanese investors were reluctant to purchase overseas assets," said Chris Calderwood, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedo.

"Just tinkering at the margin of regulations... seems unlikely to cause a massive sea-change overnight in the attitude of Japanese investors towards foreign bonds," he pointed out.

Some economists suggested the timing of the measures was prompted at least in part by concern in the United States that Japan's financial system would prompt Japanese investors to withdraw from U.S. financial assets.

Japanese financial institutions are burdened by problem loans totalling an estimated \$50 trillion yen (\$561 billion), inherited from the bursting of the 1980s "bubble" economy.

Mrs. Sakakibara, however, denied any link between the bad debt problem — which he said was on its way to being solved — and the latest ministry moves.

"If we felt the financial system was very fragile and about to collapse, we'd never announce steps like that," he said.

## Iranian parliament warns of falling production

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament has voiced concern at the country's low level of production and urged the central bank to ease restrictions on industry.

Deputies also warned in a letter to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of the "lack" of investment security in Iran, saying the situation could hamper efforts to achieve economic prosperity.

More than 140 of the assembly's 270 deputies criticised the central bank for changing "regulations for imports and exports every day," notably the procedures for opening letters of credit for importers.

The government imposed tough measures in May requiring all foreign transactions to go through the state banking system at a fixed foreign exchange rate of 100 rials to the dollar.

Two weeks earlier the greenback had been trading at more than double that figure.

The regulations, which also require traders to repatriate all their foreign earnings, are aimed at preventing the outflow of much-needed hard currency amid a financial crisis in Iran.

Imports and exports have since virtually ground to a halt as merchants find it difficult to obtain foreign currencies or are unwilling to risk investment under the new regulations.

The situation has led to a sharp drop in non-oil exports, which Iran has promoted in recent years, as well as the import of raw material and spare parts, on which industry is heavily dependent.

The parliament decided last month to investigate the activities of the central bank over the past five years.

## U.S. study says aerospace jobs could be lost overseas

WASHINGTON (R) — Some 500,000 U.S. aircraft manufacturing jobs could be lost in the next two decades because of foreign competition and "offsets" made to win access to overseas markets, a study issued Wednesday said.

The study by the Economic Policy Institute, a research centre, also showed that U.S. plane-makers could lose \$129 billion in sales to foreign firms by 2013.

It said that while the U.S. aerospace industry had suffered in the past several years because of cuts in military spending and an airline in-

dustry recession, the future problems came from overseas.

The study said some 500,000 jobs could be lost by 2013 because of foreign competition and offset policies in which U.S. firms agree to build parts of their planes overseas in return for financing help and future sales.

It recommended the United States negotiate a new civil aviation policy with the European Union to prohibit the big U.S. plane-makers, Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Co., and the European Airbus Industrie, from using the export of jobs and

technology as marketing tools.

It said that while Boeing spent \$6 billion developing its new, B-777, it had to share development and production with foreign partners because of U.S. antitrust restrictions and the reluctance of the U.S. government to ensure risk-taking in commercial development.

It said the government

should help preserve the aerospace industry's long-term viability by coordinating federal policies in financing, export and trade and negoti-

ating an international aviation fair trade agreement.

## FAO: Some 23m Africans face food shortages

NAIROBI (R) — Drought, civil strife and insecurity are wreaking havoc on farming in sub-Saharan Africa where some 23 million people face food shortages, a U.N. report has said.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in a quarterly report said the shortages meant more food aid was needed but the global availability of food aid would decline 20 per cent from last year," he added.

The largest concentration

of vulnerable population is in southern Africa where some 10 million will be affected, as well as nine million in western Africa, up to three million in

and you can have a great

meal.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Career activities may go slowly this morning, but don't get discouraged since later today all picks up and you can accomplish a great deal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find it difficult to reach one you like and make plans, but later today something comes up

and you can have a great

meal.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may not comprehend what is going on at home, but bide your time and then you can profit from the situation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Try not to fly off the handle with a bigwig today or you lose valuable support. Be very careful in the handling of mechanical gadgets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You do not understand a monetary matter well this morning, so give it more thought before you handle it.

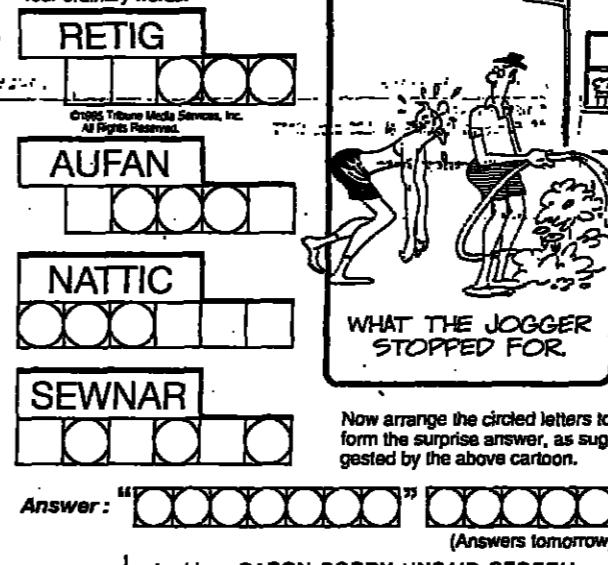
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may feel very anxious without cause this morning, so go after your personal wishes with poise and gain them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't worry about a situation you can do little about today. Concentrate on more practical affairs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early today plan how to gain your personal wishes and then carry through in a most positive way and get right results.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: **WHEAT** (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CAPON SORRY UNSAID REDEEM

Answer: What a recession can turn into — A DEPRESSION

© 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into practical affairs with higher-ups who are experts in fields you are most interested in. Get fine results during daytime.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An emotional partner can give you fine ideas today for progress, so listen carefully, but don't approach a bigwig tonight for backing.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You understand how to gain better standing via the tasks you are currently engaged in for you to be successful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can be with congenial friends for amusements today, but avoid bigwigs this evening. Plan new entertainment for later.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Keep rooted to interesting tasks during the day and accomplish a good deal, but don't go off on any tangent this evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get your finest talents working during the daytime, and tonight don't get into any business scheme which could be troublesome.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Every chance is yours to improve conditions at home today, so don't hesitate in doing so. Tonight avoid being pushed by a partner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Contacting as many partners as you can today and getting their support for your ambitions is wise this morning.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Concentrate on how to have a greater income stream since your bank account is dwindling. Do not be extravagant.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are in a position to gain a long-time wish, so make the most of this. Be more economical this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more concerned with gaining personal wishes and make arrangements for such. Be positive and drive with care on the highway.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget usual activity and concentrate on something new which can gain you greater benefits later today.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

## OECD suggests need for early interest rate hike in U.K.

PARIS (AFP) — Short-term interest rates in Britain may have to be raised further in the coming year to achieve the government's current medium-term inflation objective, the OECD said Tuesday.

But the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the British economy was "on track for a 'soft landing'" with continued moderate inflation and a sustainable current account position.

In its annual review of economic trends and prospects in Britain, the OECD said sustainable low-inflation growth was "within grasp" as a result of sweeping micro-economic reforms since the 1980s. a

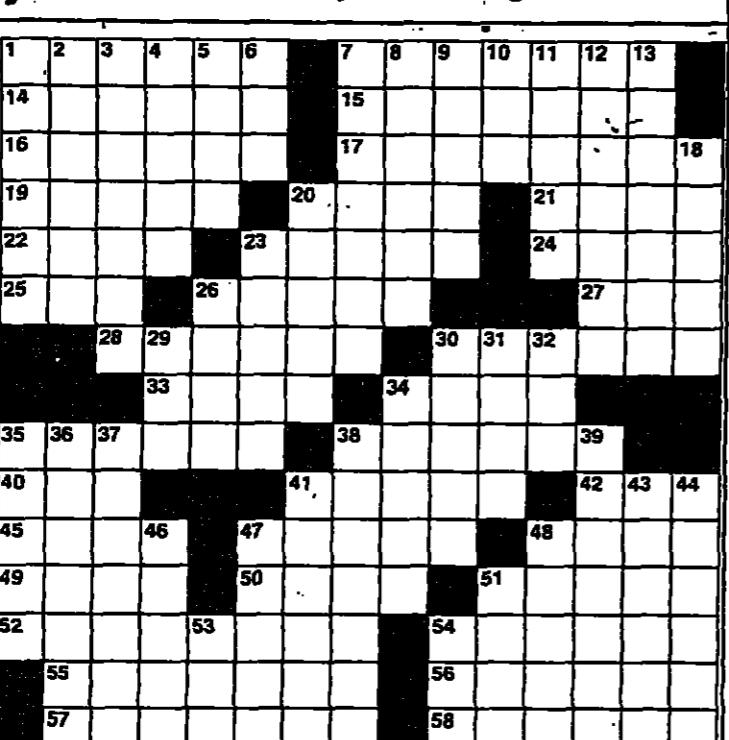
new monetary policy framework, and a still large output gap.

Balanced output growth and low inflation suggested that the British economy "may have been made more flexible/competitive and less inflation-prone," it said.

The report said current macro-economic restraint should help showing GDP growth over the next two years to levels more in line with potential output; estimated by the OECD at around 2.5 per cent.

It said that sterling's effective exchange rate down by 5.0 per cent since end-1994, and recovery quickening in Europe, exports should support projected growth rates of 3.4 per cent in 1995.

THE Daily Crossword by Glenton Petgrave



07/25/95

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n Jeff



JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 3-4, 1995

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find a better way of handling career duties and later today you can handle business matters very wisely.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) You get some good ideas for becoming more successful today provided you steer clear of a newcomer.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 19) Go to an expert for advice about business problems, and then you can handle them wisely for your program.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 20) You and a partner may be at odds this morning, but later today you can reach a fine accord with him or her.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Career activities may go slowly this morning, but don't get discouraged since later today all picks up and you can accomplish a great deal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find it difficult to reach one you like and make plans, but later today something comes up and you can have a great time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may not comprehend what is going on at home, but bide your time and then you can profit from the situation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Try not to fly off the handle with a bigwig today or you lose valuable support. Be very careful in the handling of mechanical gadgets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You do not understand a monetary matter well this morning, so give it more thought before you handle it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may feel very anxious without cause this morning, so go after your personal wishes with poise and gain them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't worry about a situation you can do little about today. Concentrate on more practical affairs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early today plan how to gain your personal wishes and then carry through in a most positive way and get right results.

**Busi**  
**daily**  
**Dear**  
**Hinchcl**  
**'persuad**  
**London**  
**to write**  
**Jordanian**  
**debt**

# Business & Finance



JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 3-4, 1995

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR DAY, AUGUST 14

ARIES: (March 21)

19) Find a better handling career than later today you can business matters very well.

TAURUS: (April 20)

20) You get some good news from a newcomer today provided you clear of a new comer.

GEMINI: (May 21)

21) Go to an advice about business and then you're in them wisely for the rest.

MOON CHILDREN:

22 to July 21) You partner may be at work morning, but later you can reach a fine score or her.

LEO: (July 22 to Aug 19) Your career activities are slowly this morning don't get discouraged later today all your deal.

VIRGO: (August 20 to September 22) You difficult to reach one and make plans, today something can go wrong and you can have a bad day.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You comprehend what's at home, but hide it and then you can bring the situation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try off the handle with today or you lose support. Be very careful the handling of gadgets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) You not understand a matter well this morning give it more thought you handle it.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 19) You're very anxious this morning, so go personal wishes and gain them.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Don't sit a situation you're little about today. Cope on more personal affairs.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 17) Early to how to gain your wishes and this through in a month way and get right is.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY GUST 4, 1995

By Thomas S. Feltz, Carter Agency

ARIES: (March 21)

Get into practical higher-ups who are fields you are most successful results during.

TAURUS: (April 20)

An emotional partner fine ideas today will listen carefully to approach a big backing.

GEMINI: (May 21)

You understand better standing up to be currently engaged to be successful.

MOON CHILDREN:

22 to July 21) You can be friends for success day, but avoid being a leader. Plan new enterprising.

LEO: (July 22 to August 19) Keep rooted to interests during the day and a good deal, but don't let any tangent the event tonight avoid being a partner.

SCORPIO: (October 20 to November 21) Consider many partners as well and getting their support ambitions is wise this month. Don't be swindled. Do not be a partner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Come to have a greater confidence your bank account. During this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 19) You are in a gain a long time, but most of this. Be more active this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) More positive gains personal arrangements for the highway.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 17) For a usual arrangement which can gain you profits later today.

(Al Ra'i).

## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### Hinchcliffe 'persuading' London to write off Jordanian debt

★★ THE BRITISH ambassador to Jordan said in a speech addressed to the Amman Rotary Club that he was personally endeavouring to convince his government to write off £300 million of Jordanian debt to British commercial companies and guaranteed by the British government.

The ambassador, Peter Hinchcliffe, said he was finding difficulties regarding this issue, but hoped he could convince London to eventually cancel the debt, before the economic summit in October. Mr. Hinchcliffe pointed out that this region has become of interest to Britain again, after a shift to Arab Gulf countries in the past. He stressed Britain's keenness to ensure the success of the Amman economic summit and revealed that the minister of commerce would be heading a strong British delegation of those who seek to set up commercial projects in the region. They explained that the U.S. support to the idea of setting up a regional bank for the Middle East was based on pure political reasons and that the bank will not benefit developing countries like Jordan. The ambassador said the bank would not extend soft loans but rather commercial credits and that the countries that would benefit from it would be the developed states, hinting at Israel (Al Dustour, Al Aswad).

★★ IF THE Kingdom is to keep pace with the developments in the communications sector, and should the sector be kept in the hands of the public sector, by the year 2000, the country's debt would increase by \$1.6 billion, the minister of communications has said. He explained that there were three alternatives to choose from. One would be to deprive the people and the national economy of modern telephone services. Another one could be having Israeli companies trying to sneak in the Jordanian market to fill the need for communication facilities. Noting that the first choice was impossible and not acceptable to the government and that the second choice was an unacceptable danger, the minister pointed out that the only solution was to allow the private sector to invest in the communications sector within the conditions and controls specified in the draft law presented for the approval of the Lower House (Al Ra'i).

★★ THE ENGINEERS' Association has received requests from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya and Malaysia to employ 30 engineers in many fields, especially for the electrical, mechanical and irrigation specialties. The jobs will be announced by the association Saturday. The association has sent memoranda to Arab companies offering the services of qualified and experienced engineers. It has succeeded in the past year to employ 400 and to train 622 engineers at various public and private institutions and companies as well as military centres. During the first half of this year, the association has managed to employ and train 59 engineers (Al Dustour).

★★ ACCORDING to the annual report of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the industrial sector achieved a "good" 7.7 per cent growth rate in 1994 compared to one per cent for the agricultural sector and 4.1 per cent for the construction section.

(Al Ra'i).

### Air India eyes Gulf, Africa as competition in Asian skies heats up

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Air India, facing stiff competition in the Asian skies, plans to expand flights to the Gulf and Africa, airline officials have said.

Brijesh Kumar, the flagship carrier's managing director, said Air India plans to lease seven aircraft to step up service to Singapore and Hong Kong as well as expand operations to African destinations and the Gulf.

Air India, whose profits plunged last year when a plague scare drove away tourists, also plans to clinch a deal with the United States for the rights to pick up enroute passengers on Air India flights to and from Chicago, he said.

Mr. Kumar told reporters in Bombay, where the airline is headquartered, that seven overseas bidders have responded to Air India's global tender for the leasing of seven planes.

A committee is evaluating the bids and in all probability more flights would be introduced to the Gulf, Singapore, Hong Kong and Africa in October, the Air India managing director said.

"The airline has stagnated with no increase in capacity or increase in flights, and hence the need to take aircraft on lease to bridge the gap," he added.

Air India presently has just two flights a week to Singapore and Hong Kong and is

facing demand from business travellers for higher frequency and first-class facilities.

On the flying rights accord with the United States, the airline chief said an Air India delegation would leave for Washington next month to try and clinch the agreement.

Air India wants to step up flights to Chicago with rights to pick up passengers in London or Amsterdam.

In return, Air India has offered United Airlines the right to operate flights to and from New Delhi, airline source said.

Air India is planning to almost double its present fleet of 26 long-haul aircraft, but is hoping for a disaster-free year following the plague epidemic last September, which resulted in 22,000 cancellations.

Net profits slipped to just \$3.3 million during the first nine months of fiscal 1994-95, which ended March 31, down from \$7 million in 1993-94.

Mr. Kumar said Air India posted a profit of \$2 million in the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared with a loss of \$10 million during April-June last year.

It has also been facing stiffer competition. British Airways, KLM, Lufthansa and four Middle Eastern carriers have all stepped up flight to Asia and increased service to Air India's passenger-revenue bastion in the Gulf.

### Westinghouse to acquire CBS for \$5.4b

NEW YORK (AFP) — Westinghouse Electric agreed to acquire the CBS television network for \$5.4 billion, both companies announced Tuesday, just a day after the Walt Disney Co. said it was buying the rival ABC network.

"With the addition of CBS, Westinghouse is creating a premier broadcasting powerhouse," Michael Jordan, chairman of the U.S. conglomerate told a news conference. "Our television and radio stations will reach more homes than any other broadcaster."

CBS Chairman Laurence Tisch, who recently asserted his company was not for sale, said this deal would deliver "terrific value for CBS shareholders."

Westinghouse, better known for its nuclear power plants and refrigerated transportation, is offering \$81 a share for CBS. Additional payments could be made depending on the timing of the closing.

The agreement, to create a new group called Westinghouse-CBS, must still be approved by shareholders and regulatory federal authorities either later this year or in early 1996.

The deal, approved by the board of directors of both companies, would create a broadcasting company reaching directly one-third of all U.S. households and could boost Westinghouse's sagging fortunes by increasing

its market-share in a booming market.

Rumours of a Westinghouse bid had been rife for two weeks, but on Monday it was ABC that made the headlines when Walt Disney stunned the markets by announcing it was buying the network in the second most expensive merger ever — \$19 billion.

Mr. Jordan confirmed that Westinghouse, which recently cut 7,000 jobs or 30 per cent of its payroll to reduce debt, has arranged a \$2 billion line of credit with two leading banks, Chemical Bank and J.P. Morgan.

In exchange, the group, which still has about \$3 billion worth of debts, has agreed to sell between one and \$1.5 billion worth of assets.

The company, with \$8.85 billion in sales and a net profit of \$77 million for 1994, suffered as nuclear energy fell out of favour and as a result of cutbacks in U.S. defence spending which affected its electronics division.

"Our announcement today is, in many ways, a return to our roots, confirming that the future of Westinghouse will be built around our broadcasting and media business," Mr. Jordan said.

"It is the fastest growing, highest margin segment of our company, and offers our shareholders tremendous future value," he added.

The group has a long history of involvement with the broadcast industry, going back to the early 1920s when it was a partner in the Radio Corporation of America — the predecessor of both the NBC and ABC networks.

Westinghouse has a television division of its own (Group W), but this consists mainly of local television outlets and represents one-tenth

of the Westinghouse's annual turnover. With CBS this would increase to 30 per cent share and Mr. Jordan said his company intended to push further into the field, both at home and abroad, notably by buying into cable networks.

CBS earned \$280 million last year on revenues of \$3.7 billion, while the seven television stations it owns made \$217 million.

CBS has seen its fortunes tumble this year as its TV network dropped to third place in the primetime ratings and it lost several key station affiliates to the Fox network, set up in 1986 by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

Analysts suggested that news of the Disney deal had put pressure on CBS and Westinghouse to rapidly reach a deal.

#### Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close 2/8/95
Sterling Pound	1.4070 1.4060 **
Deutsche Mark	1.3765 1.3831
Swiss Franc	1.1382 1.1457 **
French Franc	4.7548 4.7637 **
Japanese Yen	81.05 89.80
European Currency Unit	1.3500 1.3429 **

\* USED FOR ATC - Bureau Opening of 8 AM A.M. CARR

\*\* Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 2/8/95

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.698	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.1178	1.1234
Deutsche Mark	0.5046	0.5071
Swiss Franc	0.6097	0.6127
French Franc	0.1460	0.1467
Japanese Yen	0.7794	0.7833
Dutch Guilder	0.4504	0.4527
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0445
Belgian Franc	---	---

\* For 100

Other Currencies

Date: 2/8/95

Currency	Bid	Offer
Sahabi Dinar	1.8350	1.8480
Lebanese Lira	0.0423	0.0435
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1871
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5000	2.5600
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1918
Egyptian Pound	0.1000	0.1160
Omani Riyal	1.8012	1.8220
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1904
Greek Drachma	0.2845	0.2880
Cypriot Pound	1.5375	1.5550

\* For 100

London Exchange Rates

London (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar 1.3626/36

1.3856/66

1.5526/36

1.1472/82

28.51/55

4.7880/30

157.90/80

89.88/97

7.0625/25

6.1320/70

5.3830/80

Canadian dollar

Deutschmarks

Dutch guilders

Swiss francs

Belgian francs

French francs

## Janet Evans loses 800m freestyle crown



Janet Evans

G PASADENA (AP) — Janet Evans, invincible in the 800 freestyle since 1987, lost her crown to 15-year-old Brooke Bennett.

Bennett won her first national title at the Phillips 66 Championships in 8 minutes, 11.84 seconds — the fastest time in the world this year. Evans finished fourth in 8:37.39, well off her world record of 8:16.22 set in 1989. She held a narrow lead through the first 400 metres before Bennett took command by two body lengths. Moments later, Evans was passed by Trina Jackson (8:34.65) and Cristina Teuscher (8:34.65), who finished second and third, respectively.

Evans, 23, had not lost a major title in the 800 in eight years, piling up 22 consecutive victories and a record 12 national titles in the event.

"If I was a little younger, I'd be disappointed," she said. "I've been there, done that, I'm going to move on. I don't think age is a factor."

Her words belied the quivering in her voice and the tears in her eyes. Eventually, Evans regained control and laughed at the suggestion that she queen of long-distance swimming is dead.

"Please don't say that," he begged. "I'm not going to quit by any means."

"A little girl came up to me and said, 'you still have a huge fan club, don't worry.' That's what I appreciated. Four or five years ago, I would have been, 'this is it.'" Her coach, Mark Schubert,

suggested Evans was not in top form on the first day of the star-studded five-day meet, which determines her dominance events, the 400 free, to Bennett.

Four months ago, Bennett caused a stir during the Pan American Games by suggesting Evans feared her.

"She knows there's somebody there behind her,"

Bennett beat her idol for the second time this year. In May, Evans lost another of her dominant events, the 400 free, to Bennett.

Evans was miffed at the comments and openly wondered why Bennett didn't show some respect.

But she was gracious in defeat, flashing a smile at Bennett and telling her "good job" after the race.

"It meant a lot. I'm sure there are hard feelings in there," Bennett said. "I said 'good job' to her."

Peter Wright of Delran, New Jersey, won the men's 800 in 8:06.27. Brian Younger of St. Louis was second in 8:07.63 and Jon Sakovich of Gainesville, Florida, third in 8:09.62.

## Rangers ready to renew quest for European glory

GLASGOW (R) — Glasgow Rangers have long prided themselves on being one of the giants of European soccer.

Almost everything about the club entitles them to think so. Seven successive Scottish titles, their 31,000 capacity all-seater stadium, 18 international players from various countries on their playing staff.

The club has an annual income of more than £20 million (\$32 million), boasts fans in every corner of the globe, runs a TV station on match days and sells everything in their club shop from their Rangers brand of whisky, gin and vodka to Rangers tartan, aftershave and ladies underwear.

But there are no videos on sale of Rangers winning the European Champions' Cup, or any replicas of the European Champions' trophy on offer.

Gallingly, across the city these are available in the club shop of arch-rivals Celtic, who won the European Cup in 1967 when they beat Inter-

nationale 2-1 in Lisbon. It is an achievement Celtic fans have taunted their great rivals for nearly 30 years.

The European Cup is the one major prize to have eluded the men in blue and until they have lifted that trophy, they will never exorcise the ghosts of Celtic's "Lisbon Lions."

Not will anyone outside the blue half of Glasgow put them on a par with the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and AC Milan.

Chairman David Murray, a multi-millionaire in the steel and metals industry who rebuilt his own life after losing both legs in a car crash in his twenties, has provided the funds for the re-building of Ibrox Stadium into one of the finest in Britain.

But he is well aware of the no-man's land rangers currently inhabit. They are too big for Scotland, not eligible to take part in the Premier League in England and have still to prove themselves in Europe.

"We know that with the possible exception of Man-

chester United, we are the biggest club in Britain," Murray said. "We will soon have nearly 40,000 season ticket holders and the funds we generate are vast."

"There are few clubs in the world as big as Rangers. Our aim is to prove that everyone in the only way we can — by winning the European Cup."

Demand for tickets is so great that fans are now paying a one-off contribution of \$399 (\$637) merely for the right to then purchase their season tickets for each of the next 25 years.

More than 12,000 fans have already pledged their cash and Murray says that if demand continues to grow, he will not hesitate to increase the stadium's capacity to 60,000.

The passion and loyalty of the Ibrox fans is legendary and for more than a century their "auld firm" rivalry with Celtic has fuelled their devotion and split the city in half.

The protestants with their Union Jack British flags support Rangers, the Catholics

with their Irish flags follow Celtic.

For the best part of those 100 years that rivalry was largely internecine, but all that changed in the late 1980s when former manager Graeme Souness started signing English and overseas players.

His successor Walter Smith has continued that policy, bringing in players of the calibre of Britain Laudrup from Denmark, Basile Bolin from France and Paul Gascoigne from England via Italy.

The biggest signing of course was Gascoigne, who cost £4.3 million (\$6.87 million) from Lazio and whose own peroxide blond, cropped hair has spawned hundreds of imitators and given Glasgow's barbers a healthy boost to their earnings.

Because of the serious injuries he has suffered over the last four years, the signing of Gascoigne is a major gamble.

But Gascoigne, one of five close-season signings who

have cost the club £11.3 million (\$18.05 million), could be the key to unlocking the European treasures.

These are buoyant optimistic times at Ibrox, but the club has been in this position for the last two seasons.

Big summer signings have brought the promise of great achievement, only for Rangers to fail in their European quests.

Mutray, a staunch advocate of a European League, knows that for the club continue to grow at their present rate on and off the field, it is imperative they reach the lucrative Champions' League.

All they have to do is to achieve that is to beat the Cypriot champions, part-timers Anorthosis Famagusta, in a preliminary round tie next month.

Last weekend saw Rangers lift their first trophy of the season when they beat Romanian champions Steaua Bucharest 4-0 and Italians Sampdoria 2-0 in the Ibrox international tournament.

They have to do to the Cypriot champions, part-timers Anorthosis Famagusta, in a preliminary round tie next month.

Last weekend saw Rangers

lift their first trophy of the

season when they beat

Romanian champions Steaua

Bucharest 4-0 and Italians

Sampdoria 2-0 in the Ibrox

international tournament.

The arrest warrant was issued earlier in the week, but was executed when authorities feared Peter Graf, who is also his daughter's manager, might flee Germany to avoid prosecution, Mannheim prosecutor's spokesman Peter Wechung said.

He confirmed last month that both miss Graf and her 57-year-old father were targets of searches as part of an investigation.

Wechung said police went to the Graf family home in Bruehl south of Mannheim to carry out the arrest before noon.

The arrest warrant said Mr. Graf did not file a tax return for four years, and when he did, on estimated income of 35 million marks (\$25 million), he paid only one-fifth of that income in taxes.

In other first-round matches fourth-seeded Karol Kucera of Slovakia beat Rus-

sin's Andrei Cherkasov 6-3, 1-6, 6-1; sixth-seeded Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic defeated France's Henri Laconte 6-1, 6-3 and No. 7 Javier Sanchez of Spain outplayed Roland Agenor of Haiti 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Also, Alberto Portas defeated fellow Spaniard Marcos Aurelio Gorriiz 6-2, 6-4; Karim Alami of Morocco beat Czech David Miketa 7-6 (7-2), 6-4; Bohdan Ulihara of the Czech Republic beat Marco Meneschinelli of Italy 6-4, 6-1; Mariano Zabala of Argentina defeated Poland's Wojciech Kowalski 6-4,

1-6, 7-6 (7-3), and Czech Jiri

Vane outplayed countryman Radomir Vasek 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Uzbekistan's Oleg Ogorodov beat Franco Davin of Argentina 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Ogorodov substituted for third-seeded Czech Karel Novak, who withdrew from the tournament Tuesday morning after suffering a back injury.

Connors downs Borg in

finals

In Dearborn, Michigan,

Jimmy Connors rallied to

beat Bjorn Borg 0-6, 6-4, 6-4

in the final of the Mentadent

Champions.

Today

ART

PHILADELPHIA

presents

Jurassic

Park

Directed by

Steven Spielberg

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**DELUXE APARTMENTS FOR SALE OR RENT**  
Apartments with an area of 180 sq.m., Consisting of 3 bedrooms, L-shaped salon & dining room, 3 bathrooms + kitchen, veranda, one master bedroom, deluxe finishing. Location: Shmeisani near the new Ministry of Justice building  
Call Tel: 668882

**INDEPENDENT FLOOR FOR RENT**  
consists of 3 bedrooms, salon, dining room and sitting room with a fireplace, spacious veranda, garage, store room and telephone , area 250 sq m. Location : rabieh - near Chinese embassy .  
for more information call tel. 678617  
Amman / for three days .

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
A British Research Institute based in Amman seeks a  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSISTANT**  
for short term employment starting in September 1995  
Applicants must be:  
Fluent in written and spoken Arabic/English  
Computer literate with experience of desk-top publishing and ACCESS data-base.  
Qualified in design and/or marketing  
Only qualified applicants should send their CV in English with two references to the following address, not later than 16/8/1995.  
BIAAH  
P.O.Box 519, Jubieha 11941, Amman  
Fax 06 837197

**PLAZA**  
Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in  
Easy to Get (Arabic)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

**CONCORD "1"**  
Ahmad Zaki, Layla Alwy and Mahmoud Hamedeh  
The Thierd Man (Arabic)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
**CONCORD "2"**  
Only you (Arabic)  
Shows: 3:30, 5:30

**AMMOUN THEATRE**  
TEL:618274 - 618275  
MUSA HIJAZIN "sumaa"  
IN  
Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm  
written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqeef  
Shows start at 8:30 p.m.

Australian Open victory still buoys Pierce



CARLSBAD, California (AFP) — A second-round Wimbledon exit and a Fed Cup defeat may not seem the perfect preparation for an assault on the U.S. Open title. Mary Pierce's confidence remains undimmed.

Pierce, the world number three, said that even though she has not cashed in on the momentum from her Australian Open triumph in January by winning any more tournaments, she is physically and mentally at home among the game's best players.

"It has been eight months that I've been ranked among the top players, and I think I've shown I can consistently play with them," she said.

At Wimbledon, she fell in the second round to French Fed Cup teammate Nathalie Tauziat, but she said the three-set effort, in her first appearance at the All England Club, was a pleasant surprise.

So was France's down-to-the-wire defeat by the United States in the semi-finals of the Fed Cup.

Playing the Americans in North Carolina, the French split the four singles matches to take the tie to the deciding doubles.

"That's totally the opposite to a blow in confidence," she says of the loss. "It's such a great experience. It's very rare that we can play as a team, play for each other. I felt we played really well."

"The whole team was disappointed because we came close to winning it," she said. "It was really fast and hard and we did a lot of things off court. I think that's why I got

Mary Pierce  
there was a great team spirit."

Now she is focused on the last Grand Slam of 1995, the U.S. Open and her appearance here at the \$430,000 WTA Tour event at the La Costa resort is part of the preparation.

"My goal is to peak at the U.S. Open," she said. "I'm training hard physically. I'm going to play here and at Toronto. They will be very important tournaments for me to prepare for match tough."

Pierce admitted to something of a let-down after the Australian Open, where she beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in straight sets in the final.

"After Australia, a lot of stuff happened really fast and when you come close it's even harder. But we all tried really hard, and

"A lot has happened in the last two years in my life," said Pierce, 20. "I've been working with Nick (Bulutier) and Sven (Groeneveld) and I feel there has been a tremendous improvement in my game."

"Also just in my life and being happy. I think in two years you grow up and learn more things about life and yourself."

## Sanchez Vicario, Martinez survive tests

CARLSBAD (R) — Top-seeded Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez each dropped a set in winning second-round matches on Tuesday at the \$430,000 Toshiba Tennis Classic.

Sanchez Vicario, the top seed, survived against Canadian Patricia Hy-Boulais 6-2 2-6, 6-2, and the second-seeded Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion, struggled past Beate Reinstdaler of Austria 4-6 6-2 6-3 in a 2 hour, 5 minute baseline battle.

"When I won the first set I was feeling very good," said Sanchez Vicario, the world's second-ranked player. "But I started leaving the ball a little shorter and she started taking advantage of that, and started attacking."

Sanchez Vicario, however, regained control and raced to a 5-1 lead in the decisive set before serving out the 1 hour, 46 minute match against the world's 69th-ranked player.

"I started playing deep again and moving the ball much better, and taking control," said Sanchez Vicario, who has been runner-up to Steffi Graf here the last two years.

Third seed Mary Pierce of France played the first nine games before powering past American Erika De Lone 6-0 6-3 in 62 minutes.

"I just felt great. Everything was working well," said Pierce, who yielded just eight points in the 18-minute first set. "I was expecting a little bit more of a battle."

Three seeds were surprised on the hard courts of the LA Costa Hotel and Spa.

Sixth seed Natasha Zvereva of Belarus was flat after a three-week layoff and fell to Sandrine Testud of France 6-3 6-4. Tenth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa was bounced by Ai Sugiyama of Japan 7-5 6-0.

American Sandra Cacic beat

## United cancels match in Cantona controversy

LONDON (AP) — Manchester United cancelled a scheduled practice match against lower division club Preston following controversy over banned striker Eric Cantona's appearance in a similar match last week.

Cantona was due to play in the match behind closed doors at United's training ground on Monday, despite his nine month ban from "all football activities" for attacking a crystal palace supporter in January.

Manager Alex Ferguson phoned Preston Monday morning to cancel for fear of

further controversy. The match last week against Rochdale was also held behind closed doors with no crowd. However, a London tabloid newspaper published pictures of Cantona playing, and the Football Association took hundreds of calls from the public questioning the status of his suspension.

"The game was behind locked doors and was a private match, but when there were pictures in the paper, it became a public event," FA spokesman Mike Parry said.

"We feel that Manchester

United probably have an explanation. The terms of the ban are quite clear and precise, we'd just like the matter clarified. We are not near the stage of imposing any penalties."

The FA has asked United to give it an explanation as to the conditions of the game, but Parry said that would probably not happen until next week as the team is currently on tour in Malaysia.

Under the terms of cantona's suspension, he is allowed to train with the club, but cannot represent it in any competitive matches.

whether friendly, cup or league.

Players' union boss Gordon Taylor said the FA should not think of penalizing Cantona or United.

"We feel Eric has suffered very tough punishment already, and that any suspended player needs to keep fit," said Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association.

"We can understand his suspension applying to games where the public is admitted, but we feel that matches behind closed doors should be acceptable."

### Schumacher weds despite newspaper clamour

KERPEN, Germany (R) — World champion Michael Schumacher married Corinna Betsch on Tuesday only hours after delaying the civil wedding in disgust when German papers splashed his secret nuptial plans across their front pages.

Schumacher emerged from the registry office in Mainz and posed for photographers with his bride before heading off to celebrate.

Earlier, the Benetton driver had disappointed dozens of reporters and fans who had gathered outside the town hall in his neighbouring home town of Kerpen to catch a glimpse of the couple.

"It was the young couple's wish to get married under completely normal circumstances and without media uproar," Kerpen Mayor Peter Mueller said. "The city has to respect this."

Schumacher thrilled his compatriots by becoming the first home driver to win the German Grand Prix on Sunday.

A full church wedding was set for Saturday at the federal government's hilltop guest house overlooking the Rhine Valley near Bonn.

Cologne's Catholic Archbishop gave the couple special permission to wed at the chapel on the site, where dignitaries such as Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev and Queen Elizabeth have stayed while visiting Germany.

Fans will have trouble catching a glimpse of their idol there because the only road leading to the complex will be sealed off.

**Jordan Times**  
Tel. 667171



Michael Stich

## Stich already thinking of U.S.Open

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Michael Stich beat Gianluca Pozzi in straight sets to reach the second-round of the Infiniti Open here on Tuesday — but he admitted his mind was already on the U.S. Open.

Stich, the second seed behind Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, defeated Pozzi 6-4, 6-2.

Former world number-one Jim Courier, the third seed, beat Alejandro Hernandez of Mexico 6-3, 6-2 and fifth-seeded Swede Thomas Enqvist beat Mauricio Hadad of Colombia 6-1, 6-2.

"I think I played pretty well," Stich said. "I'm just trying to work real hard right now to have my game ready for the U.S. Open. My main goal is to be ready for the Open."

Richard Krajicek, the fourth seed from the Netherlands, withdrew before his first-round match on Tuesday with a recurrence of the right elbow injury that forced him to retire during the Canadian Open in Montreal last week.

"I had my chances to close it out in the second set and I didn't do it," he said. Rafter admitted it was hard to get back on track after a momentum swing of that magnitude.

"Mentally it's very difficult," he said, adding that he was trying to school himself to deal with that kind of setback.

"If you look a guy like Pete Sampras, he plays a couple of

loose games, he gets it back. That's why he's one of the best players in the world. And that's why I'm not. One of the reasons why I'm not."

But Rafter said he was improving in that department.

"It was very important for me to remain composed and stay there," he said. "I knew I could pull it out."

Like Stich, Rafter said he was already looking ahead to the U.S. Open, which starts on August 28.

One man in the draw here who probably isn't already plotting his U.S. Open strategy is veteran Jimmy Connors.

Connors, officially retired and playing on a senior tour with other over-35s, accepted a wild-card entry and was to play Italian Cristiano Caratti on Tuesday night.

While Connors said he hoped to continue pepping his schedule with ATP Tour events, he said the best-of-five set format of the Grand Slam tournaments made the U.S. Open less attractive to him at the age of 41.

## Fire engulfs thoroughbred barn

HENDERSON, Kentucky (AP) — Fire quickly engulfed a thoroughbred barn early Monday at Ellis Park, killing as many as 25 expensive race horses. One stable groom trying to free horses from the flames was slightly burned.

The cause of the fire was unknown. Arson investigators were at the site.

Tejano Run, who finished second at this year's Kentucky Derby and who was moved Friday to Ellis Park for turf training, was stalled in another barn at the track and was not among those killed.

The track, which houses about 1,000 thoroughbreds in more than 30 stables, canceled racing for Tuesday. Ellis Park, whose meet ends

back inside out of sight and burned to death, firefighters and a track spokesman said.

Stable groom John Wells saw the barn burning and ran inside to free the horses. He suffered second-degree burns to his shoulder, said Richard Schnars, vice president and general manager for Ellis Park.

Wells was treated at a local hospital, then returned to the track.

"They were running all over the park," said firefighter James Banks, the on-scene commander. "You get a scene like this, they just go crazy."

At least one horse that was led out of his burning stall ran

by the acre. The ten of hearts lost to West's ace and the remaining spade stopper was removed. Since declarer could not come to nine tricks without at least one diamond, East grabbed the first lead of the suit and cashed four spade tricks for a two-trick set.

North claimed a dollar. South pleaded that this was a case of simple bad luck—a diamond at trick two would have landed the contract, but how could anyone know which red ace East had?

That's true enough—but the contract is laid down as the cards lie. All declarer has to do is hold up on the first spade.

When West continues spades at trick two, dummy wins and let's suppose declarer guesses wrong by leading a heart to West's ace. The last West can do is shift to a club. Declarer rises with the table's ace and forces out the ace of diamonds and the defenders are helpless.

The bidding: North: East: South: West: 1 NT: Pass: Pass: Pass: 3 NT: Pass: Pass: Pass: 1

bulster partner's spupper.

West led the king of spades, taken.

One dollar, please.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH  
11th, Featue Movie Series

### WHERE'S THE FIRE?

Neither vulnerable. North deal:

NORTH: ♦ Q 4

♦ K Q J 4

♦ Q 10 9 2

♦ A Q 8

WEST: EAST: ♦ K 2

♦ A 7 6 3

♦ A 8 2

♦ A 5 3

♦ 9 6 5 4 2

♦ K 7

SOUTH: ♦ A 4 3

♦ 10 8 5

♦ K J 6 5

♦ 4 10 3

The bidding: North: East: South: West: 1 NT: Pass: Pass: Pass: 3 NT: Pass: Pass: Pass: 1

bulster partner's spupper.

West led the king of spades, taken.

One dollar, please.

## Effiong, Powell fail drugs tests

GOETHEBURG, Sweden (Agencies) — Nigeria's Daniel Effiong faces a four-year ban for steroids and Jamaican Donovan Powell a three-month ban for stimulants after both sprinters failed drugs tests Wednesday.

Effiong, 23, tested positive at the Nigerian championships in June to a steroid-stimulant combination, methyltestosterone-epinephrine. IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai told a news conference.

"Epinephrine is a stimulant, the other is a steroid, so its four years," said Gyulai.

Effiong, like Powell, has been suspended pending a hearing.

In 1992, Effiong and four other Nigerian athletes failed dope tests on samples provided shortly before the Barcelona Olympics.

The others were all suspended after their B sample confirmed the initial result, but Effiong was cleared after his second sample proved negative.

At the time, he was competing as Daniel Philip — the sprinter's full name being Daniel Effiong Philip.

One of Africa's top athletes, Effiong came seventh in the 100m at the 1993 world championships in Stuttgart, but has not been entered for the championships which open here on Friday.

A student at Azusa Pacific University in California, Effiong won the 100m at the World University Games in 1993 and was African champion in the same year. Last

year, he set a Nigerian record over 200m.

Powell, 24, tested positive for the stimulant epinephrine at the Jamaican championships on June 23.

Two weeks ago, he came second behind Britain's world and Olympic champion Linford Christie in the 100m at the Bislett Games in Oslo.

Hattestad, Pippig pull out

Trine Hattestad has pulled out of the world championships because of advanced pregnancy and will not defend her world javelin crown.

The Norwegian has hoped five months of pregnancy would not affect her performance, but she said she was unable to compete at her top form in such a condition.

"My belly is just too big now," she said.

After the birth of her second child, set for December, Hattestad will centre on next year's Olympics in Atlanta.

Germany's Uta Pippig, a leading marathon runner who was entered for the women 10,000 metres here, pulled out because of an injury.

Gunnell out too

Britain's Sally Gunnell has been forced out of the world championships altogether, after injuries dashed her last hopes of running the 4x400m relay.

Gunnell had already abandoned her defence of the 400m hurdles she won in Stuttgart two years ago, but was still hoping to make the relay squad on the flat.

Primo Nebiolo was given a fifth mandate as president of the ruling International Amateur Athletic Federation by the IAAF Congress meeting here on Wednesday.

The election was, in fact, a formality as the 72-year-old Italian was standing unopposed. Of the 188 voting

delegates, 135 had already written a letter of support for his candidacy.

Nebiolo, who took over from Dutchman Adrien Paulen in 1981, has transformed the sports' ruling body, successfully attracting sponsors and lucrative television rights. The 1992-96 budget is 120 million dollars.

The world championships, which officially open on Friday are the fifth to be held since 1983, and they now rank third, behind football's World Cup and the Olympic Games, for global TV audience.

The two-day Congress will also re-elect members to an expanded 27-strong IAAF Council, and discuss a variety of issues ranging from drugs, funding and administration.

**Christie grandfather at 35.**

Spring champion Linford Christie has become a high-speed grandfather, according to a report in the Sun newspaper here on Wednesday.

The paper said the Olympic gold medallist, who holds the world 100 metres title, became a grandfather at the age of 35 after his 16-year-old son became the father of a baby girl, Shakira River, three weeks ago.

School-leaver Merrick Osborne still lives in south London with his mother Judith Osborne, a teenage sweetheart of Christie's. The relationship broke up when Merrick was much younger.

Merrick has been going out with the baby's mother Georgina Mackenzie, 17, for two years, the paper said.

## Foyt plans racing comeback to 60

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A.J. Foyt has the itch to race again at 60 years old.

The man who retired from driving with a tearful farewell and a slow lap around the oval at Indianapolis motor speedway in 1991 can't seem to get it out of his system.

"I'll tell you. I just want to start racing a little bit more, get back in shape, take off about 20 pounds (nine kilograms)," he said. "It's something I enjoy, and what's life all about if you can't have fun? This (retirement) deal hasn't been much fun for A.J. Foyt."

Foyt was the first of three drivers to win four Indianapolis 500s. His resume also includes 63 other Indy-car wins, seven Nascar triumphs, including the 1972 Daytona 500, and two wins in the Daytona 24-hour sports car race.

He came out of retirement a year ago to run in the inaugural brickyard 400 and was the slowest of the 40 qualifiers in the 43-car field

that included three provisional starters based on series points. His car ran out of gasoline early while running near the lead and Foyt wound up 30th, four laps behind but running at the end of the 400-mile race.

On Tuesday, Foyt confirmed he will try again in this Saturday's Winston Cup race at the speedway, and that may be only the beginning.

"I'm looking forward to this," Foyt said. "As this race got closer and closer, I got itchy and itchy. I just think when I stepped down out of Indy cars, I stepped down a little early, and I still want to race. If I didn't think I could do anything, I wouldn't be here."

So, the man who started a record 35 consecutive Indianapolis 500s and has always been a fan favourite at the speedway, will be in a Motorola-sponsored Ford Thunderbird when practice begins.

Foyt said he might run some more races this year.

Because the Indy-car season ends in September.

Foyt, now a full-time Indy-

car team owner, is also considering getting back into

## Australia to keep up protests against French nuclear tests despite Paris snub

CANBERRA (Agencies) — Australia on Wednesday vowed to continue protests against French nuclear testing in the South Pacific as the row with Paris escalated with the French envoy leaving the country and state governments attacking French investment.

"We'll keep it up. We don't like their capricious decision to continue to detonate nuclear weapons," Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating told reporters in the remote Queensland town of Roma.

Ambassador Dominique Girard returned to Paris in protest at Australia's decision to ban a French defence contractor bidding for a jet contract.

Mr. Girard said it was a shame that a previously good relationship had soured. "We consider that the way in which we have been treated was not in line with that policy (of good relations)," Mr. Girard told reporters.

However, Australia welcomed Mr. Girard's departure, saying Paris would now get a clear, unambiguous message from Australia's opposition to French President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume nuclear testing at French Polynesia.

"An important effect of it will be that the message gets through at the very highest level to the French president that this is a decision which is regarded with outrage in Australia," said Acting Foreign Minister Gordon Bilney.

Mr. Keating said Australia was undeterred by Mr. Girard's recall.

"I'm concerned to see that the French understand the Australian protest, and they're starting to register that now, and the recall of the ambassador is recognition of that," he said.

Defence Minister Robert Ray, who confirmed on Tuesday that France's Dassault aviation had been excluded from bidding for the contract to buy 35-45 light jet fighters, on Wednesday called on state governments to look at boycotting French firms.

"The real pressure now is on some of the state governments who are doing a lot of

business with French companies," Mr. Ray told reporters in Canberra.

The Australian State of Victoria on Wednesday said French companies were not welcome to bid for a slice of its electricity privatisation programme north up to £213 billion (\$89.6 billion).

But the ban does not affect French government owned electricité De France (EDF), one of three bidders for the A2.1 billion (\$886 million) state-owned United Energy Distributor, a government spokesman told Reuters.

A spokesman for Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett said the move was in protest at French nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

The premier made clear two weeks ago that the government would actively discourage other French companies from becoming involved in the electricity privatisation programme.

Mr. Evans had led opposition to the French tests at the ASEAN meetings, causing the European Union (EU) delegation to disassociate itself from a communiqué on security issues which urged an immediate end to all nuclear weapons testing.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Evans told reporters that Australia had no plans to follow France's example and recall its ambassador from Paris, and he said Canberra wanted to "keep open lines of communication."

Mr. Barnier said his meeting with Mr. Evans was "cordial and very frank," using a term which usually indicates sharp differences of opinion.

"We put everything on the table in a cordial and almost friendly fashion."

Mr. Evans described the meeting as an "interesting" one and said: "We understand all the justifications, but when one acknowledges everything that can be said in favour of the decision, it is still a very bad decision."

Mr. Keating said nuclear testing had hurt French business and French standing in the region and "the French don't like it."

"This sort of admonition is the price that France is going to have to pay," he said.

In Bandar Seri Begawan, French and Australian ministers had a 45-minute meeting here late Wednesday to try to cool down the row but neither side budged on the fundamental issue of France's plans to conduct a series of

"If it's applied across the board, they (French businesses) would have to come to the conclusion as to whether they wanted to stay in Australia or not," said a chamber director, Bob Somerville.

French companies are currently trying to secure contracts from state governments worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Keating said nuclear testing had hurt French business and French standing in the region and "the French don't like it."

He quoted Mr. Evans as saying that environmental issues were not his chief concern about the planned resumption of nuclear testing.



SETTLERS CLASH WITH POLICE: A Jewish settler resists Israeli police as they try to evacuate him from a West Bank hill, overlooking the Palestinian village of El Khader, where some 150 settlers spent the night before being evicted early Wednesday (AFP photo)

## King Fahd introduces major reshuffle

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd ousted his veteran oil and finance ministers Wednesday in Saudi Arabia's most significant leadership shakeup since he came to power in 1982.

Oil Minister Hisham Nazer will be replaced by the president and chief executive of the giant petroleum company Saudi Aramco, Ali Bin Ibrahim Al Nueimi, according to a royal decree. The finance and planning minister, Mohammad Alabkhal, also lost his job.

No reasons were given for the changes and there had been no public signs of policy disputes between the ousted ministers and the king.

However, Saudi Arabia's oil-based economy has encountered difficulties since the 1991 Gulf war, which has cost the kingdom tens of billions of dollars.

Also, low oil prices in recent years reduced revenues in a land that was flush with cash throughout the 1980s.

The move came as part of a cabinet reshuffle that had been widely expected, but its scope took observers by surprise.

A former commerce minister, Suleiman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Sulaim was named as the new minister for finance and national economy, while Abdul Wahab Bin Abdul Salam Al Attar was named minister of planning.

There was no immediate word on whether the two ousted ministers would receive new ministerial posts.

Mr. Nazer had been petroleum minister for almost nine years after Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani was fired. A confident, well-spoken technocrat, Mr. Nazer, 63, was named oil minister in 1986 following the dismissal of the charismatic Yamani.

Mr. Nazer graduated with honours from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1957, and obtained a masters degree from the same school a year later. He held a number of senior government posts, including the job of planning minister for 11 years before he became oil minister at a time when oil prices were sagging.

The reshuffle came as scheduled two years after King Fahd gave the Saudis their first constitution in the so-called basic statutes of government. He also created the kingdom's royalty-appointed, 61-member Islamic-style consultative council, or Majlis Al Shura.

The main portfolios held by members of the Saudi royal family remained unchanged.

Three brothers of King Fahd retained their posts: Crown Prince Abdullah as first deputy prime minister.

Prince Sultan as second deputy prime minister and defence minister, Prince Nayef as interior minister — and Prince Saad Al Faisal, the king's nephew, as foreign minister.

Prince Sultan is the world's longest serving minister.

Following is the list of the new cabinet:

- Head of state and prime minister: King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).
- Crown prince, first deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard: Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).
- Second deputy prime minister and defence minister: Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).
- Minister of pilgrimage affairs: Mahmud Ibn Mohammad Safar (unchanged).
- Minister of commerce: Ussama Ibn Jaafar Ibn Ibrahim Faqih (new).
- Minister of health: Ussama Ibn Abdal Majid Shabashi (new).
- Minister of agriculture and irrigation: Abdallah Ibn Abdulaziz Ibn Muamer (new).
- Minister of public works and housing: Prince Mutaib Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).
- Minister of interior: Prince Nayef Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).
- Minister of foreign affairs:

## COLUMN

### Argentina agog over UFO

SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE (AFP) — Argentina was nervously watching the skies Tuesday a day after an airliner narrowly missed hitting a UFO which darted in its path. Jorge Polanco was piloting an Aerolineas Argentinas jet headed for this southwest winter resort town at around midnight Monday when he was forced to pull the plane up short to avoid what witnesses described as a "spaceship." "As I was making the final approach, I suddenly saw in front of the plane a white light which was bearing right down on us really fast before it halted about 100 metres away," he said. He said that as he frantically manoeuvred his plane, which was carrying 103 passengers, the UFO took a bizarre turn so that it could follow the airliner and flew in tandem with it for about 100 metres. Air Force Major Jorge Oviedo said he and several others also witnessed the UFO and that there was a simultaneous power outage throughout the entire city. The pilot said he was forced to pull up when the runway lights went out and that the flying object about the size of a jetliner with two green lights and a flashing orange light, "changed colours," followed him for a little while longer and then took off at "an unnatural speed." Officials were investigating the sighting.

### Astronomers track comet

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African astronomers are tracking a newly-discovered comet that could become the brightest object in the night sky. The comet, discovered last week by two American astronomers, is still low on the horizon in the northern hemisphere, but passes directly over South Africa, giving scientists scanning southern skies a better view.

"We took the first picture from South Africa last night, it was really quite bright, brighter than you would expect at that distance," Patricia Whitelock of the South African Astronomical Observatory said Wednesday. Ms. Whitelock dismissed as speculation reports that the comet might come close to Earth, or even threaten the planet. "It's a bit soon to predict, we will have a better idea in a week. Comets are unpredictable, that's what makes them so much fun," she said. She said the Hale-Bopp comet, named after American amateur astronomers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp who detected it on July 23, was about 1,000 million kilometres from Earth.

### Michelangelo's David ruled not obscene

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong judge ruled Tuesday that Michelangelo's David is not obscene. The High Court decision resulted from a case brought by an English-language newspaper, the *Easter Express*, which sought to quash a ruling by the colony's Obscene Articles Tribunal that a picture it published of the sculpture was obscene. The paper's editor, Michael Chugani, said the judge declared no jurist would find the statue of a nude David indecent and referred the case to the tribunal for a retrial.

### Jailbirds raise a stink at Loos Prison

LOOS-LES-LILLE, France (AFP) — Suffering the twin effects of prison overcrowding and a recent heat-wave, 100 prisoners at Loos in northern France late Tuesday refused to return to their cells unless they were allowed more frequent showers. With temperatures well over 30°C (90°F) Fahrenheit) for several weeks, the smell inside the prison has started to become overwhelming, the prisoners complained.

The powerful Islamic Clerical Council that reviews laws passed by Iran's parliament also rejected the new election law requiring parliamentary candidates to have a university degree, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said.

It said the Guardian Council ruled that the law, requiring candidates to be university or Islamic theology school graduates, to be against the Iranian constitution.

### Badawi accuses government agents of beating him

CAIRO (AP) — Ten assailants dragged a prominent Egyptian opposition journalist from his car and beat and kicked him. The journalist blamed government agents Wednesday for the attack.

Gamal Badawi, editor-in-chief of Al Wafd newspaper, said he was followed by two cars after a meeting of the journalists' syndicate on Tuesday night and then forced to pull over in a Cairo suburb.

Ten men got out of the cars, dragged him and his driver into the street and beat and kicked them for about five minutes. Mr. Badawi told the Associated Press. Both were bruised but not hospitalised.

"The finger is pointed at the government because of the position both the newspaper and I took on the new press law," he said. "This is

six rockets were fired, hitting the caves directly and injuring five guerrillas, hospital workers said. Another 10 were trapped in one of the caves by rockfall caused by the blasts.

In around Jerusalem an Israeli army spokesman confirmed the raid and said pilots carried out a pinpoint raid before returning safely to their base.

Policemen said six more planes provided cover for the raid in a sector where the Syrian army has many troops and anti-aircraft guns.

Black plumes of smoke rose from the labyrinth of caves at the foot of the hilltop village of Sultan Yacoub, causing panic among the 6,000 inhabitants.

The wounded Palestinian fighters were taken by ambulance to hospital at Jib Janin, south of Sultan Yacoub, while members of the radical group prevented journalists from entering the caves.

Parliament last month granted extra powers to the Council of Guardians, a legislative body dominated by religious conservatives, to oversee the election process for the March 8 polls.

The council can now screen candidates more thoroughly and control the polling process, which previously was supervised solely by the interior ministry.

"It's dangerous to go in there, there are time-bombs which are in danger of going off at any moment," said Ahmad, a guard brandishing a kalashnikov.

However, a burned-out jeep was visible from outside the base. Fires started by the rocket explosions were quickly brought under control by the group.

"No institution has the

right to intervene in the election process and no one can prevent people from voting for their preferred candidates," said the letter signed by 122 political figures.

The group urged the council to allow opposition groups to be tolerated in the Islamic republic, criticised the "interference" in next year's elections.

The Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI), one of only a few opposition groups to be tolerated in the Islamic republic, criticised in a letter faxed to the council that the new election law was unfair.

The powerful Islamic Clerical Council that reviews laws passed by Iran's parliament also rejected the new election law requiring parliamentary candidates to have a university degree, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said.

It said the Guardian Council ruled that the law, requiring candidates to be university or Islamic theology school graduates, to be against the Iranian constitution.

The new powers granted to the council could risk alienating a wide spectrum of voters, especially supporters of the liberals and radical Islamic groups.

"No institution has the

## Christopher tries to ease ASEAN concerns with China pledge

BANDAR SERI BEGAAN (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tried to reassure Asian allies Wednesday that Washington wants to resolve its differences with China and maintain its position in the region.

"Although we may have differences, neither the United States nor China can afford the luxury of walking away from our responsibility to manage them," Mr. Christopher told a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Brunei.

He was speaking after talks Tuesday with his counterpart Qian Qichen in which the two sides took their first tentative steps towards patching up a rift over Taiwan and China's arrest of an American human rights activist.

Mr. Christopher told Mr.

### Polio, measles return to Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Epidemics of polio and measles have returned to Sudan following a decline in U.N. and Western funding for government vaccination programmes, an official said Wednesday.

"For the first time in 10 years we have cases of measles and cases of polio which appeared in Nyala (in western Sudan) and then be-

gan to spread in most of the other states," said Hashim Ali Al Zaen, the Vaccination Director at Sudan's Health Ministry.

Mr. Al Zaen said both diseases had become epidemics, the Sudanese daily newspaper, Al Sudani Al Hadith, reported Wednesday. At least 252 children are suffering from polio, he said.

A U.S. official said that following the meeting with

### Egypt's Brotherhood warns against crackdown

CAIRO (AP) — The Muslim Brotherhood warned on Wednesday of a backlash of violence if Egyptian police continue a crackdown on the fundamentalist group after 180 of its members were arrested in raids last week.

The police campaigns could make the young people (Brotherhood activists) deviate from the good path and lead them to commit acts of violence," Maamun Al Hodeibi, the Brotherhood's spokesman, told AFP.

"I cannot guarantee what will happen," he added, although he also stressed that the group was "careful to avoid any deviation into violence and is determined to continue its non-violent policy."

Police arrested 180 Muslim Brothers on Friday in the biggest sweep against the group since President Hosni Mubarak came to power in 1981.

Witnesses said groups of armed men exchanged fire with the security forces, leaving one police constable dead.

Dada, allegedly a member of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), is wanted for

the killing of 100 attacks in Karachi, police said.

The others killed were Javed Michael, Mohammad Hanif and Ghafar Madda.

Officials said police and paramilitary Rangers had been deployed as tension flared in Baldia Town, where Dada lived.

Witnesses said groups of armed men exchanged fire with the security forces, leaving one police constable dead.

The arrests came amid a growing crackdown which be-

gan in January against the group, which the government has accused of backing Muslim militants and plotting the violent overthrow of the state.

Banned in 1954, the Brotherhood has been tolerated in the Islamic republic, criticised in a letter faxed to the council that the new election law was unfair.

The powerful Islamic Clerical Council that reviews laws passed by Iran's parliament also rejected the new election law requiring parliamentary candidates to have a university degree, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said.

It said the Guardian Council ruled that the law, requiring candidates to be university or Islamic theology school graduates, to be against the Iranian constitution.

The new powers granted to the council could risk alienating a wide spectrum of voters, especially supporters of the liberals and radical Islamic groups.

"No institution has the

right to intervene in the election process and no one can prevent people from voting for their preferred candidates," said the letter signed by 122 political figures.